The Canadian Jewish News

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Terror suspects arrested

JERUSALEM (JPFS) — The General Security Service recently arrested three terrorists who have reportedly confessed to the murder of Montreal native Jason Friedberg.

Friedberg, a 24-year-old soldier in Israel's elite Golani brigade, was found dead last March 7 along the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway. He had been shot at point-blank range.

Those arrested are also charged with killing three other Israelis. The three have reportedly re-enacted the crimes for investigators.

The terrorists are said to belong to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction and were allegedly receiving 3,500 dinar and $1,000 in U.S. currency for every Israeli Jew they killed.

ISRAELI COMMANDOS TRAIN

Female members of an Israel Defence Force commando unit undergo vigorous training in the sea before continuing on dry land. [IPPA Photo].

GA sessions focus on continuity issue

By RON CSILLAG

MONTREAL — Given the dizzying array of lectures, speakers, workshops and seminars touching on virtually every Jewish concern there is — all crammed into four days — one may be forgiven for thinking that last month's Council of Jewish Federations General Assembly (GA) held here lacked focus or failed to enunciate a specific crisis.

Previous GAs, while providing wonderful opportunities to network and shmooz, seemed to have no problem defining the galvanizing issue of the year, be it Who is a Jew, the funding of Soviet Jewish emigration or trying to head off ever-imminent schisms between the denominations.

But these are the '90s and far as many communal figures are concerned, North American Jewry has finally come around to putting front and centre what may be the biggest challenge facing Jews today: whether their children will be Jewish at all.

The difficult, thorny issues of assimilation, intermarriage and Jewish identity were distilled into the buzzwords that formed the touchstone of this year's GA: Jewish continuity.

That wasn't a clearly stated GA mission; the theme appearing in the 152-page program booklet was the meaningless "Jewish Community Through Diversity: Building the Global, Continental and Local Jewish Community For a New Era."

Despite what appeared as the GA's scattershot approach, the 3,000 or so delegates from North America, Israel, Europe and South Africa were reminded that the parley was to stress three tracks: financial resource development, Israel/Diaspora relations and Jewish continuity.

The last managed to pop up just about everywhere, in every session. For the mainly American participants especially, the issue is all too real, given rates of intermarriage in some U.S. communities that are double the Canadian numbers.

[Cont'd. on page 9]

Monroe Abbey dies

MONTREAL — Monroe Abbey, a former president of Canadian Jewish Congress and leader of many Montreal Jewish organizations and philanthropies, died here Nov. 29. He was 89.

A lawyer, Abbey was born in Montreal and served as counsel for several Canadian and U.S. corporations.

He was CJC national president from 1968 to 1972 and had since been its honorary president. Abbey served Congress in a myriad of capacities and headed many national committees.

Alan Rose, CJC executive vice-president, said Abbey's death "removes one of the great leaders of our time."

Abbey's many communal activities included being president of the Baron de Hirsch Institute and of Combined Jewish Appeal. He also represented Canadian Jewry on a number of international Jewish bodies, including National Claims Against Germany and the World Jewish Congress.

Abbey is survived by his wife Minnie (formerly Cummings) and children Sheila Finestone, the Liberal MP from Mount Royal; Stanley Abbey and Diane Livingstone. Another daughter, Joan Pass, predeceased him.

Israel, PLO at odds over Dec. 13 deadline

JERUSALEM (JTA/JPFS) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has angered Palestinian negotiators by saying that the Dec. 13 deadline for reaching an agreement on Israeli troop withdrawals from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho is not "engraved in stone."

PLO leader Yasser Arafat responded by warning that if Israeli withdrawal does not start on Dec. 13, the accord will not be implemented.

But Israeli officials said last Sunday they expect an agreement with the PLO will be reached more or less on schedule.

The officials spoke after Sunday's weekly cabinet meeting, at which Rabin and senior defence officials added to doubts that the implentation of the self-rule accord signed last month in Washington would begin as scheduled.

Their appraisal of the negotiations, being held in seclusion in Cairo, Arafat's negative assessment over last weekend regarding the state of talks.

Arafat said the future of the peace process hinges on Israel beginning its withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho on December 13.

If the withdrawal doesn't start by the agreed target date, "there will be no implementation of the peace accord and everyone has to bear the responsibility for what will happen after that," Arafat said.

But though negotiations on military and civilian matters were due to resume Monday, no immediate solution to the impasse seems in sight.

Fuelling doubts over the start of the accord's implentation, Rabin listed several major issues of disagreement: Control over the Jordan River bridges and the crossings between Gaza and Egypt; the size of Jericho; the extent of IDF patrols on roads outside of the Jewish settlements; and whether a group of settlements in Gaza can be considered complete enclaves or only individual units exempt from Palestinian control.

Rabin has said unless security issues are resolved, he will not begin implementing the accord.

A visibly irritated Arafat, during a trip to Sweden, described the negotiations as "deadlocked."

At a news conference, he described a progress report on the negotiations from chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Sha'ath as "completely negative."

But Arafat said that the eighth round of negotiations on implementation of the accord would nonetheless resume this week in Cairo.

Arafat said the main problem was that Israel sought to "redeploy" its forces in Gaza, rather than "withdraw" them as stipulated in the self-rule accord.

But in fact, both the terms "withdraw" and "redeploy" are used in the declaration of principles signed in Washington.

Article 13 stipulates that "a redeployment of Israeli military forces in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will take place, in addition to the withdrawal of Israeli forces" from Gaza and Jericho.

This clearly indicates that Israeli forces are to remain in sections of Gaza after the "withdrawal."

Indeed, the declaration of principles was signed with the clear proviso that "settlements (and) Israelis" are to be outside the purview of the Palestinian self-government and police force soon to be established in Gaza and Jericho.

Countering Arafat's charges, Rabin said that the Dec. 13 deadline for the start of Israeli troop withdrawals from Gaza and Jericho is not sacrosanct and that a delay would not be disastrous.

But both sides are plainly anxious to conclude the implementation talks successfully and within the allotted time frame — if only to demonstrate to their respective constituencies that the agreement between them is proceeding according to plan.

Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini said in Amman that while the deadline was indeed "not sacred," it would be a "bad sign" if the two sides failed to meet it.

Husseini added that the Israeli side was "dragging its feet" in the negotiations.

Ziad Abu-Ziad, a Jerusalem lawyer who is an adviser to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, announced that he was suspending his own participation in the negotiations in protest over what he said was a lack of progress in the matter of Palestinian prisoner releases.

Ziad has served as head of the Palestinian delegation to the working group dealing with creating confidence-building measures between Israel and the Palestinians.

Commenting on the issue of prisoner releases, Ziad told reporters in eastern Jerusalem, "The Israelis do not realize how sensitive this matter is."

He said that no Palestinian leader would sign a final agreement on Gaza and Jericho without a firm Israeli commitment on prisoner releases.

On Oct. 25, Israel released more than 600 Palestinian prisoners in an effort to build Arab support for the accord. But the Palestinians are insisting on much larger prisoner releases.

Ziad told Israel Television that another sticking point in the Cairo talks is the lack of agreement on the size of the Jericho area to fall under Palestinian control.

He cited the presence of Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip as the chief cause of the difficulties in the negotiations.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal has meanwhile accused Syrian President Hafez Assad of actively undermining every effort by Israel to advance the peace process with other Arab countries.

CJF General Assembly

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Canada

Jewish population in former Soviet Union lower than expected

By RON CSILLAG

MONTREAL — Numbers were crunched at the General Assembly (GA) session on the future of Jewish life in the former Soviet Union, and the results paint a very different picture than was previously believed.

For one, there are far fewer Jews in the Commonwealth of Independent States than was thought, according to a study by the Jewish Agency for Israel's Eastern Europe unit.

While some estimates had put the total number of Jews in the CIS at between 2.5 and 4.5 million, it's now believed there are between 1.4 and 1.8 million "self-declared" Jews in the 15 republics that comprised the Soviet Union [*CJN*, Nov. 18].

The survey, conducted by Jewish Agency field workers and local governments, is not scientific and not a census but is reliable, Baruch Gur, head of the agency's East Europe bureau, told the GA forum.

Gur said the total is far lower than was believed and that the assimilation rate among Jews is very high.

There are direct flights to Israel from dozens of cities as well as agency workers or representatives in over 140 centres of the CIS, Gur noted.

The agency's main aim now, he said, is aliyah.

CIS Jews "are in a state of transition," with some 70,000 expected to arrive in Israel this year and as many as 500,000 expected in the next five to seven years.

Although two other panellists said anti-Semitism is a force in the former Soviet Union, Gur said anti-Semitism is not what motivates Soviet Jews to leave.

Rather, it is economic and political crises in the breakaway republics that are triggering the exodus. "Whatever you hear about stability, it's not true and they won't have it for years," he said. Jews, he added, "are privileged to leave."

And it is not only European Jews who are leaving but more and more Jews from the Caucasus and Muslim republics.

In war-torn Georgia, over 5,000 Jews are expected to leave for Israel this year, Gur said, leaving 17,000 behind. In two years, he predicted, the Georgian Jewish community will be no more.

Similarly, the Jews of Bukhara, Kazakhstan, will have departed in a few years and even the chief rabbi of Samarkand has said he is leaving, Gur said.

In Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, the Israeli embassy issues over 200 exit visas every day, while over 1,000 Jews arrive from the south-central Muslim republics each month.

The goal now, Gur explained, is getting more young people to make aliyah. In the next five years, he predicted that 300,000 young Soviet Jews will arrive in Israel.

Israel is busy imbuing those who remain with Jewish values, said Robert Singer of Israel's New York consulate.

The Jewish state maintains 14 government centres in the CIS, has 102 "preparatory" schools serving over 7,000 students, offers ulpanim (intense Hebrew instruction) to 20,000 students in 12 cities and makes available religious instruction and programs in 107 cities and towns with fewer than 5,000 Jews.

Next year, Singer said, over 1,000 Jewish high school pupils will come to Israel on study programs.

The situation now is "far more complicated and uncertain" than it was in the Soviet Union, stated Mark Levin of the U.S.-based National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

"We're dealing with 15 governments who have no knowledge of democracy. The [old] sense of stability is gone. The social fabric is unwoven."

It's "ironic," Levin said, that new freedoms are being exercised at great risk, given the strength of old, hardline Communists.

He said there has been a "dramatic rise" in popular anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish sentiment against individuals and institutions.

At least Russia is more open to Jewish concerns because Jews supported President Boris Yeltsin during the parliamentary uprising in October, said Mikhail Chlenov, chair of the Russian Vaad, the community's central agency.

"They are more open to listen to us now," he said.

The uprising by hardliners, which Yelstin crushed, has not increased Jewish emigration, Chlenov said.

Russian anti-Semitism "is more of a political nature."

But he cautioned that hard-line Communists are poised to win more power in the next parliamentary election.

Roughly 20,000 Russian Jews have been emigrating each year since 1989, he noted.

Communities urged to help in re-settling 'Soviet' Jews

By JANICE ARNOLD

MONTREAL — No effort should be spared by the Jewish communities of North America in the resettlement of Jews from the former Soviet Union, the executive vice-president of Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society told delegates to the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF) General Assembly.

Moreover, said Martin Wenick, the American Jewish community should continue to lobby the U.S. government to maintain its current level of refugee admission, which currently allows 40,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union into the United States each year. That is one-third of the total refugee slots.

Since 1978, more than 300,000 Soviet Jews have settled in the U.S. and the flow has greatly increased in the past six years with freer emigration, said Donald Tranin, chair of the CJF refugee resettlement committee.

Wenick, who worked for the U.S. State Department's Eastern European desk for 27 years and was later director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, argued that helping Soviet Jews resettle on this continent is logical following the 20-year struggle Western Jews waged for Soviet Jewish emigration.

"We can't just declare a victory and go home. We must now commit ourselves to [the Jews of Russia and the 14 other new republics], whether they want to remain there, go to Israel or come here," he said.

Anti-semitism "at the street level" is part of the daily lives of Jews since the collapse of communism, he said. Jews are the scapegoats for the new countries' political instability and economic chaos. "People who never thought of leaving before are now doing so."

Over 100,000 Soviet Jews are now "in the pipeline," and 1,500 new applications to go to the U.S. are filed each month, he said.

Bonjour Montréal
COUNCIL OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE
Montréal 1993

CJF past president Shoshana Cardin said North American Jewry has a responsibility to embrace the Soviets, simply because Judaism commands Jews to help any Jew in trouble.

Cardin, a past president of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, the major American pressure group for Soviet emigration in the 1970s and '80s, said in the pre-glasnost era an Israeli visa was the only ticket to freedom. Today, Soviet Jews should have the freedom to be reunited with their families in North America because they have a "legitimate fear of persecution."

The Jewish community's responsibility to these newcomers goes beyond feeding and clothing them, Cardin said. They must be fully integrated into the community and society.

She urged Jewish communities not to give up after working with Soviet migrants for 10 or 15 years.

She acknowledged that many Soviets have difficulty adjusting and some will never make it, but the majority become "proud Jews and Americans. Remember, not every American Jew belongs to a synagogue either."

With polls showing a rising anti-immigrant feeling in the U.S., Wayne Feinstein of San Francisco said it is the task of the Jewish community to convince the public of the benefits of immigration.

Feinstein, who is executive vice-president of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, said the federations should be mobilizing all segments of the Jewish community to "rescue" Soviet Jews, both politically and through services.

WELCOME TO THE GA

Charles Bronfman (second from left) welcomes Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (second from right) to the GA prior to the Prime Minister's address. With Bronfman is (from left) Steve Drysdale, Rosalind Goodman, Roslyn Wolfe and Mrs. Rabin. [Howard Kay photo]

CJF told to re-examine amount sent to Israel

MONTREAL — North American Jewry "sooner or later" must reconsider its tradition of sending a high proportion of the money it raises to Israel, said Council of Jewish Federation vice-president Daniel Shapiro at the General Assembly. That would leave more money to be spent here on what he called the Diaspora's "war of preservation."

Shapiro suggested more of the funds raised from campaigns in North American Jewish communities be used to ensure the continuity of these communities.

Shapiro, past chair of the Jewish Philanthropies of New York, also called for a re-examination of the Jewish Agency, the quasi-governmental body through which funds from the Diaspora are channelled.

Speaking at a session on Israel-Diaspora relations at the General Assembly, Shapiro said there is growing frustration among the federation and United Jewish Appeal with the Jewish Agency.

"It is time to re-evaluate the role of the Jewish Agency as the designated representative of the Diaspora in Israel," Shapiro said, noting the mounting fatigue of North American Jewish leadership with having to go through a "gatekeeper" to reach the Israeli government.

He deplored the "power struggles" between community leaders and Zionists with the Jewish Agency.

Diaspora leaders want more direct contact with the Israeli government, he said. They want "an ongoing dialogue at the highest levels."

Shapiro was critical as well of Israeli government officials whom he said "do not seem to care about the complexity of North American Jewry, particularly the federations. They understand AIPAC (the pro-Israel lobby in the United States), but they see us as simply fundraisers, and not as having roles in the communities.

"This lack of interest is due to the assumption the Jewish Agency is taking care of [relations with the Diaspora]."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's face-to-face meeting with Federation leaders during the General Assembly is a step in the right direction, in Shapiro's view.

This new "sophisticated" relationship between the Diaspora and Israel would pave the way for more meaningful joint ventures in business and academe.

"Just as Israel is a spiritual and cultural force for the Diaspora, so should government and non-government leaders in Israel see the continuity of the Diaspora as a high priority."

Shoshana Cardin, past president of the Council of Jewish Federations, took a similar tone when she asked: "Will Israel recognize the Diaspora as a force to be reckoned with?"

She took exception to Israeli President Ezer Weizman whom she quoted as saying "the Diaspora has no role or responsibility in the future of Israel." Such "negation" of the Diaspora has no place in today's Israel-Diaspora relations, no more than the Diaspora regarding Israel as a "dumping ground" for Jews in distress, she said.

Left to speak for Israel in this discussion was Labor MK Avraham Burg, who previously served as a consultant to the Israeli government on Diaspora affairs.

Jewish life in the Diaspora has enjoyed a "renaissance" in the past few decades, Burg said, but he wonders now if the Jewish people "can survive without an enemy."

With peace, Israel will become more a "spiritual partner" to the Diaspora than the "strategic asset" it has been since the 1973 war, he said.

Philanthropic donations are still welcome, but Burg said private investment is preferable.

In response to a question, Burg indicated the Jewish Agency is not a major issue in Israel-Diaspora relations, although he admitted there are problems.

"The real issue is creating a sense in the Diaspora that Israel cares about you."

Burg was definite that Diaspora Jews should feel they can publicly criticize the Israeli government, despite what some community leaders hold.

"There is a clear distinction between the process and the decision, which in the end Israel will make. There should be an open dialogue on everything; there are no more closed smoke-filled backrooms." — J.A.

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Jewish Agency doing well, despite its high debt level

By DAVID LAZARUS

Bonjour Montréal
COUNCIL OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Montréal 1993

MONTREAL — Despite many problems over the years, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) is in good shape now with streamlined staff and an unprecedented level of North American federation input, JAFI leaders said at a major forum of the Council of Jewish Federation's General Assembly.

Norman Lipoff of Miami, chair of the United Israel Appeal, said the agency — despite a high debt — is now solvent.

JAFI is the quasi-governmental agency through which North American funds are channelled to Israel. Constituent agencies include the World Zionist Organization, Keren Hayesod and UIA.

In the first 10 months of 1993, JAFI oversaw the absorption of 64,000 new olim, the vast majority of which came from the former Soviet Union. In 1994, JAFI expects to settle another 70,000 olim and 10,000 other immigrants.

Lipoff attributed JAFI's renewal in part to the new Joint Authority on Jewish-Zionist Education to examine Jewish continuity among youth in which North American federations are taking part.

This level of federation participation "is a first," Lipoff said.

Federation will also play a larger role in JAFI's realigned Board of Governors, with representation increasing from 22 to 36 on the 120-member board.

An additional five federation executives will serve as associate (non-voting) board members.

Lipoff said JAFI struck a task force in 1991 to renegotiate the contract between UIA and JAFI, which expires next year. The multi-year plan will "incrementally bring budgets in line with needs according to priorities." Those priorities are topped by aliyah, followed by absorption, Jewish/Zionist education, youth aliyah, settlement, renewal and allocations.

Mendel Kaplan, chair of JAFI's board of governors, said the agency has almost tripled its youth aliyah buget from $2.5 million in 1993 to $7 million in 1994 to enable 1,000 Grade 11 and 12 students to make aliyah with their parents.

As well, 20,000 Soviet youth will spend part of next summer in Israel to learn more about their heritage.

The 1994 JAFI budget will total $490 million, 40 percent of which is earmarked for immigration and absorption. The projected deficit is $12 million.

Communities told to create constitutions to aid planning

MONTREAL — How will North American Jewish communities plan their agendas for the '90s?

According to speakers at a forum on that very issue at the recent Council of Jewish Federations (CJF) General Assembly, forming a constitution might help.

CJF Canada chair Evelyn Katz said her organization is the first of its kind in Canada to formulate a statement enshrining a "constitutional basis for establishing a national collective responsibility."

The CJF constitution espouses the moral obligation of Jews everywhere to be responsible for one another. Katz said it is an official philosophical guidepost, entrenching the idea of a common purpose at a national level.

Morever, the CJF, which supplanted the National Budgeting Conference as the allocator of communal funds to national Jewish organizations, has struck a national planning committee to set priorities.

The committee, Katz said, has compiled a list of organizational and agency services in federated Jewish communities across the country.

Not surprisingly, she said, this list has revealed a lot of duplication. She predicted "turf problems" over painful decisions of what stays and what goes.

Katz is also visiting the communities for personal feedback. Three of them have asked her to return, and she said the project has created a vital "communications bridge."

Perhaps the greatest challenge for those formulating a national plan is bridging the gap between those who raise the money and those who spend it, Katz said.

The U.S. has its own national planning approach.

Marc Salisch, immediate past president of the National Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies, joked that his country is at an advantage since there is no national planning.

But in reality, Salisch saw four possible forms of national planning: short term, operational, long-range and strategic. He said long-range and strategic planning are the most needed.

The biggest mistake by the American Jewish community, in his view, has been the failure to think ahead.

National planning in the U.S., he said, has been more "entrepreneurial" than prescient, sometimes effective but more often inefficient.

One example he cited was the push to move Soviet Jewry to Israel. The move was successful, "but we boxed ourselves in by the absence of long-range strategic planning" for integrating them.

Moreover, national planning is more vital than ever before due to shrinking resources and growing needs, Salisch said, a point also made by George Wasserstein, president of CJF Canada.

Salisch said the U.S. Jewish community is undergoing a shift in generational leadership and will not necessarily be "as able or willing to invest as much time or money" in the national Jewish agenda.

That makes the need for a more efficient national planning model all the greater, he said.

"The best we can do is to give direction to the Jewish community," Salisch said. "We need to get the best leadership together to talk about decisions, instead of playing priorities and numbers. It will take guts."

— P.L.

Attitudes towards immigration expected to improve with time

By RON CSILLAG

MONTREAL — Current anti-immigration sentiments in Canada and the United States will pass, agreed a GA session on shifting attitudes toward immigrants and refugees.

Views on immigration are bound to improve as the economy pulls itself out of the recession, the panelists concurred.

There are many Zionist leaders in Canada who are anti-immigration, said Robert Kleinman of Montreal, past president of Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada (JIAS). He declined to name any.

Study after study shows immigrants are a positive contribution toward the economy, Kleinman said.

And Canadians, with the exception of Quebecers, generally display tolerance toward immigrants and minorities, he added. Attitudes in Quebec, though, have "levelled off."

Jewish federations in Canada "have to get excited and be re-sold" on immigration, Kleinman said.

The United States "is running out of patience" when it comes to immigration, said Gary Rubin, former director of national affairs for the American Jewish Committee.

But current attitudes are not changing American policy on immigration, Rubin pointed out.

He too said that negative attitudes on immigration coincide with economic downturns, but "there will be better times. The current public negativity is not permanent."

He called on Jews to bring fairness back to the system by protesting the United States' "completely contradictory" policy on Haiti, which is under economic blockade, while Haitians seeking entry to the United States are turned back.

The United States "loves immigrants but hates immigration."

Jews need to stress the value of family reunification and refugee rescue, Rubin said.

Martin Kesselhaut, president of the New York-based Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), said North Americans "are in a war on this issue."

The public mood is against immigration, said Kesselhaut, citing the popularity of both U.S. gadfly Ross Perot and the Reform Party of Canada, which has called for immigration levels to be tied to the nation's economic needs.

It's "ironic" that North American borders are open to the free exchange of goods and services, but not people, he said.

Kesselhaut suggested that Jewish communities have "Newcomer of the Month" campaigns to highlight the positive aspects of immigration.

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Canada

NAME GAME

There is a story in almost every Jewish surname and Toronto lawyer FRED M. CATZMAN has been researching their origins over the past few years. Mr Catzman reports on his research in The CJN.

KREUTZER — OESTREICHER

Oestreich (literally the East Empire) is the name of Austria.

An Oestreicher is an Austrian. Less obvious is the name Kreutzer, which was an Austrian coin. In Yiddish it was pronounced "greitzer" and described a person of Austrian origin.

GILLICK

I recently responded to an enquiry from Steve Gillic, the director of Camp Sholom, with a number of suggestions as to the meaning of his surname.

In further research, I encountered the names Gejlik and Gilyk of Ukrainian Jews who derived their names from the German and Yiddish word heilig (holy). There is no aspirate 'h' in the Slavic alphabet. Instead the letter 'g' is substituted, as in Geller for Heller.

The name was given to a saintly person, which should instil a feeling of pride in my correspondent.

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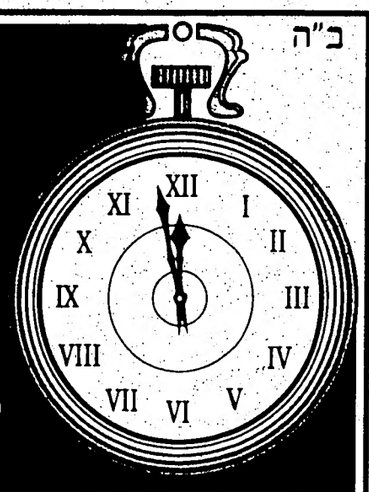

IT'S UP TO US TO BE READY

How should we respond when we hear that something exciting is happening in front of us? We can sit in our favourite armchairs and watch. Or we can take action. In our time, the Lubavitcher Rebbe has declared that the coming of the Messiah, or Mashiach, is about to happen. At this great turning point in history, we can not sit on the side-lines. We must speed the transformation to a world of peace and good by acting out the kind of world we would like to see, by doing concrete acts of goodness and by living a Mashiach-like existence now, moments before the redemption.

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New Message Weekly

Les participants au panel-discussion consacré aux perspectives d'avenir du séphardisme. De gauche à droite, assis:MM. Norman Tilles, président du Département Afrique et Asie du JDC, Theodor Comet, vice-président du JDC, Albert Weizman, directeur du bureau du JDC au Maroc et Avinoam Brog, directeur de l'Institut Van Leer de Jérusalem. De gauche à droite, debout: MM. Steven Drysdale, vice-président exécutif de la Fédération CJA de Montréal, Joseph Gabay, président de la CSQ, et Simon Lévy, secrétaire des Communautés Israélites du Maroc. (Photo: Marc Acoca)

Un panel sur le séphardisme au G.A.

ELIAS LEVY

MONTREAL — Les Sépharades d'Amérique du Nord n'ont pas été particulièrement gâtés au cours de la 62ème Assemblée Générale du Conseil des Fédérations Juives, qui s'est déroulée à Montréal du 16 au 21 novembre derniers. Parmi les quelque 350 conférences, ateliers de réflexion et tables rondes prévus au programme de cet important rassemblement du judaïsme nord-américain, un seul panel-discussion a été exclusivement consacré au séphardisme .

"La condition contemporaine du judaïsme séparade. Perspectives du Canada, du Maroc et d'Israël", était le thème central de ce forum de discussion organisé par le G.A., au Palais des Congrès, avec l'étroite collaboration de la Fédération CJA de Montréal et de l'American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). Quatre conférenciers invités prirent la parole au cours de ce panel, animé par le vice-président de la Fédération CJA, M. Steven Drysdale. Le président de séance de cet événement fut M. Norman Tilles, président du Département des opérations menées par le JDC en Afrique et en Asie.

Le premier intervenant fut le président de la Communauté Sépharade du Québec (CSQ), M. Joseph Gabay. Ce dernier débuta son allocution en brossant une brève rétrospective historique de la Communauté sépharade établie au Québec depuis la fin des années 50. Que de chemin parcouru et de réalisations concrètes accomplies en l'espace d'un quart de siècle par les membres de cette dynamique communauté qui a tenu à préserver contre vents et marées ses spécificités culturelles. "Malgré le fait qu'elle fasse partie intégrante, depuis 1976, du réseau institutionnel communautaire juif montréalais, la CSQ ne s'est jamais considérée comme une agence de la l'AJCS ou de la Fédération CJA. Au contraire, insiste M. Gabay, celle-ci a toujours revendiqué vigoureusement un statut de communauté à part entière".

Selon ce dynamique leader sépharade, les instances dirigeantes actuelles de la Fédération CJA affichent une réceptivité et une ouverture d'esprit de plus en plus grandes à l'égard de l'instance représentative officielle du judaïsme sépharade du Québec. "Aujourd'hui, dit-il, les Sépharades se sentent et se considèrent comme des membres à part entière de la communauté juive organisée de Montréal".

M. Gabay croit que la Communauté sépharade, à l'instar de la communauté juive "at large", devra relever d'importants défis dans les années à venir. Il énuméra certains de ces challenges: recruter des professionnels de qualité; les congrégations sépharades éprouvent de plus en plus de difficultés à embaucher des rabbins; la culture sépharade est désormais contrainte de composer avec l'influence de plus en plus grandissante exercée par la mouvance religieuse orthodoxe au sein de la Communauté sépharade; et adapter nos structures communautaires afin de faciliter l'intégration et une implication plus active de nos jeunes au sein de celles-ci.

M. Avinoam Brog, directeur de l'Institut Van Leer de Jérusalem, une institution sociale privée dont la vocation majeure est d'oeuvrer activement en faveur d'un rapprochement plus étroit entre Juifs et Arabes israéliens ainsi qu'entre les divers groupes ethniques qui composent aujourd'hui la société israélienne, fut le deuxième paneliste à intervenir au cours de ce forum. Selon ce spécialiste de questions inhérentes à l'intégration des minorités ethniques au sein de la société israélienne, "le problème sépharade en Israël s'est atténué partiellement mais il n'a pas complètement disparu". Au cours des trois dernières décennies, ajoute-t-il, des progrès notoires ont été réalisés, notamment au chapitre de l'éducation.

Bonjour Montréal

COUNCIL OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE

Montréal 1993

"Cependant, note M. Brog, les Sépharades d'Israël ne sont pas encore sortis de l'ornière. Sur le plan de leur intégration socio-économique il y a encore beaucoup de travail à faire. C'est à ce niveau-là que les Sépharades de la diaspora peuvent jouer un rôle de premier plan". Selon lui, les Sépharades d'Israël "ne peuvent s'accrocher qu'à une seule issue réaliste" susceptible de les aider à accroître leurs chances de gravir les éreintants échelons donnant accès à l'intégration au sein d'une société israélienne régie par des institutions gouvernementales bien souvent élitistes et exclusionnistes: se lancer en affaires et créer leur propre business.

La réplique de Joseph Benarroch

"Le gouvernement israélien ne peut quasiment plus rien faire pour ces Sépharades qui constituent aujourd'hui la majorité des habitants des villes les plus pauvres d'Israël. Leur seule alternative: se lancer en affaires. Vous devriez aider vos frères, soeurs et cousins sépharades de ces villes à mettre en branle des projets économiques et d'investissement ponctuels", suggéra-t-il avec un ton sensiblement hautain. Cette suggestion étonnante provoqua quelques ricanements dans la salle.

Le troisième intervenant fut M. Simon Lévy, secrétaire des Communautés Israélites du Maroc. Ce professeur au Département d'espagnol de la Faculté des lettres de Rabat qui assume aussi les fonctions de conseiller municipal auprès du gouverneur de Casablanca s'est joint à ce panel à la toute dernière minute. En effet, il remplaçait M. Serge Berdugo, président des Communautés Israélites du Maroc, qui à la suite de sa récente nomination par le roi Hassan II au poste de ministre du Tourisme fut contraint d'annuler sa participation à ce G.A.

M. Lévy rappela tout d'abord à la cinquantaine de personnes présentes à ce panel que "les Juifs marocains ont toujours pu vivre leur judaïté sans aucune contrainte. Il existe actuellement au Maroc, dit-il, trente synagogues et quatre réseaux scolaires rattachés aux structures de la communauté juive marocaine. Sans oublier, bien sûr, toutes les institutions sociales et philanthropiques qui continuent encore à desservir les personnes les plus démunies de notre communauté, constituée aujourd'hui d'environ 10 000 personnes".

Selon cet universitaire qui siège aussi au sein du Conseil exécutif du Rassemblement Mondial des Juifs du Maroc, "le royaume chérifien a toujours été le meilleur exemple d'une cohabitation harmonieuse entre Juifs et Musulmans dans une terre arabe". Les Juifs du Maroc, ajoute-t-il, sont extrêmement fiers de leur prodigieux patrimoine historico-culturel qu'ils sont parvenus à préserver et transmettre méticuleusement.

M. Lévy croit que le judaïsme marocain ne représente pas uniquement que les quelque 10 000 Juifs vivant encore dans le royaume chérifien. "Notre judaïsme marocain, soutient-il, représente aujourd'hui approximativement 900 000 Juifs marocains établis dans les quatre coins du globe. Leurs vraies racines sont encore au Maroc. Chose certaine, de deux millénaires d'histoire sur le sol hospitalier de ce pays chaleureux, il reste encore une mémoire judéo-marocaine des plus vivaces qui ne s'est jamais éteinte".

M. Albert Weizman, directeur du bureau du JDC au Maroc, participa aussi à cette table ronde. Il commenta un remarquable film-vidéo, produit par le JDC, entièrement consacré aux divers programmes d'aide dispensés actuellement par cette institution philanthropique dans plusieurs villes du Maroc, notamment auprès de personnes âgées hébergées dans des asiles.

Sensiblement offusqué par certaines des allégations sulfureuses étayées par M. Brog au cours de son intervention, le président de la Fédération Sépharade du Canada, M. Joseph Benarroch, n'hésita pas à intervenir afin de rappeler à ce dernier ainsi qu'aux membres de l'assistance qu'il avait la nette impression de "revenir une trentaine d'années en arrière".

"Tout cela est fort regrettable, rétorqua-t-il d'un ton grave au directeur de l'Institut Van Leer. Si je comprends bien rien n'a changé dans l'approche et la façon dont certains porte-parole israéliens analysent l'épineuse problématique de l'intégration des Sépharades au sein de la société israélienne. Cependant, je ne crois pas que ceux qui négocient aujourd'hui la paix avec les Palestiniens et les pays arabes et qui vont encaisser les éventuels dividendes économiques susceptibles d'émaner de cette réconciliation encore hypothétique soient les habitants sépharades de Dimona ou des autres villes en développement du sud d'Israël. Eux, continuent toujours à vivoter au bas de l'échelle sociale...".

M. Benarroch exhorta les organisateurs du G.A. ainsi que les dirigeants du Conseil des Fédérations Juives de réactiver le plus rapidement possible un comité de travail -aujourd'hui dissous- créé au cours du G.A. qui s'était déroulé en 1979 à Montréal afin d'"examiner sérieusement et apporter des solutions concrètes aux problèmes existentiels et socio-économiques qui affligent les Sépharades d'Israël". L'appel pressant lancé par M. Benarroch aura-t-il des échos au sein du leadership communautaire juif nord-américain? Sans aucun doute, une affaire à suivre...

Women's group wants agunot high on the agenda

By JANICE ARNOLD

Bonjour Montréal
COUNCIL OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE
Montréal 1993

MONTREAL — Members of an international group fighting for a halachically acceptable solution to the agunot problem brought their campaign to the Council of Jewish Federation General Assembly (GA), asking delegates to make the issue a high priority in their communities.

As well, about 15 women from the Canadian Coalition of Jewish Women for the Get held a peaceful demonstration. They carried signs reading "Put the Plight of the Agunot on Your Community Calendar" and "Agunot — Victims of Jewish Community Indifference" and handed out fliers and buttons declaring Freedom for Agunot Now.

Coalition chair Evelyn Brook said the protest was held outside a session on Jewish continuity in the Bonaventure Hilton Hotel because the group felt the agunot issue should have been discussed there.

"When a Jewish woman is prevented from remarrying because her husband won't give her a get, there's no Jewish continuity for her or for the community if she is of child-bearing age," she said.

Instead, the agunah issue was discussed at a session called The Political, Economic and Social Status of Women. One of the three speakers was Norma Joseph of Montreal, president of the International Coalition for Agunah Rights (ICAR).

Brook said this was not the best venue because men were not likely to attend.

ICAR feels the agunot issue should be addressed by the whole community, not just women.

"If *L.A. Law* (the television show) can devote one hour to the agunot problem, this conference can give it more than 10 minutes," Joseph said during the session.

Agunot, traditional Jewish women who live in marital limbo and are often held up to extortion by their ex-husbands, have been "abandoned and rendered invisible" by the organized Jewish community, Joseph said. She also criticized the rabbinate for often counselling women to remain in abusive relationships for the sake of shalom bayit (household peace).

ICAR wants the federations to "expose the serious and growing problem of get abuse and find social remedies." This might include withholding awards or leadership positions from men and women who refuse to participate in the get process, especially after civil divorce.

Communities should find out how their rabbinical courts operate and seek to reform them if necessary, she said. They should also reach out to agunot in their cities and "adopt" them, accompany them to the Beth Din and make their stories public.

The federations should use their influence to effect change in Israel, where divorce is solely in the hands of the Orthodox rabbinate, she continued.

Describing herself as an Orthodox Jewish feminist, Joseph said she believes the plight of agunot contradicts the search for justice and ethics in Judaism.

ICAR claims to represent 1.5 million women in Canada, the U.S. and Israel. In Canada, six national Jewish women's organizations belong, and Women's Federation of Federation CJA in Montreal recently added its name.

The Coalition for Jewish Women for the Get demonstrate at the General Assembly.

ICAR has formed a joint committee with the chief rabbinate of Israel to explore the issue, following an historic meeting with the two chief rabbis this fall.

But Joseph stressed that Jewish communities in North America should not take the attitude of "let the rabbis work on it."

While Canada's amended divorce act has since 1990 made it impossible to obtain a civil divorce without the get transaction, in practice many lawyers and some judges are not familiar with the law, Joseph said.

The chances of enacting a similar law in the U.S. are poor because of the deeply-ingrained tradition of separation of church and state, said Marc Stern, co-director of the American Jewish Congress' Commission on Law and Social Action, and another session speaker. He thinks most of the Jewish community wants it kept that way.

"The instinctive reaction of legislators is 'this is not our problem.' Generally, the Jewish community would not want to change that tradition because it might harm us elsewhere," he said.

The U.S. constitution also guarantees no one can be forced to engage in a religious act and, although some may debate it, Stern thinks a get is "entirely religious."

In New York State, the law allows courts to indirectly force a get by tying it into the property and alimony settlement.

But, Stern believes most other legislatures still regard this as coercion into a religious act.

He believes the most promising approach is prenuptial agreements, recognized by the rabbis and civil authorities. Couples about to marry or those already married could enter them, he said, although he fears these contracts might actually hasten the end of some marriages. They also raise a variety of legal questions.

Stern advised Jewish women not to take a confrontational approach with the rabbis because they will only "dig their heels deeper.

"Among the Orthodox rabbinate, there is an incredible conservatism. They have a sense the world as they know it is coming unglued and may think you are trying to throw out the whole system."

Joseph later countered: "ICAR is only working toward a halachic solution. This is not a game we are out to win."

Lobbying for Pollard

VANCOUVER — Eleven Vancouverites returned from Washington, D.C., recently, after three whirlwind days of lobbying on Capitol Hill with hundreds of other Jonathan Pollard supporters, according to Mona Kaplan, who was with the Vancouver delegation.

Kaplan, senior editor of the *Jewish Western Bulletin*, reports that about 500 lobbyists converged on Washington from 13 states and Canada. The largest contingent was a busload of 46 from Pennsylvania and the second largest delegation was from Vancouver.

The Vancouver group included Ireta Fisher and Tzipi Mann, the organizers, assisted by Yehuda Hadari; Sara Almas, Tanya Gertsoyg, Joe Gold, Simma Holt, Marilyn Hooper, Sam and Mona Kaplan and Marsha Parson. Writer Lisa Fitterman went along as an observer. Also with the Canadians were three Christian supporters of Pollard from Toronto: Alan Lazerte, executive director of the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem; and Annalee and Jack Hamilton.

The Vancouver delegation represented the local branch of Citizens for Justice which initiated the first-ever international Jonathan Pollard Day.

One of the meetings held by the lobbyists was with Israel's envoy to Washington, Ambassador Itamar Rabinovitch, who agreed to hear a small group's concerns about Pollard.

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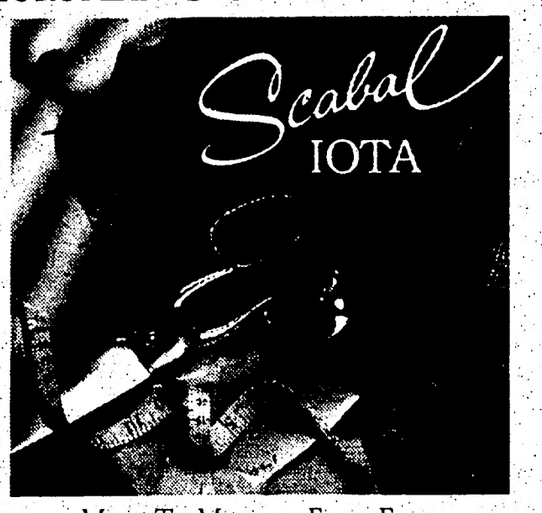

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Canada

Kahane's son calls for Rabin to resign

By RON CSILLAG

Binyamin Ze'ev Kahane

TORONTO — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin should resign because he no longer has the moral authority to govern, says the son of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane.

Rabin "is a big liar and everyone knows it. He'll give everything away" to Arabs, Binyamin Ze'ev Kahane told *The CJN* in an interview the day after addressing a packed hall at the Toronto Zionist Council.

Recent polls indicating more Israelis oppose the peace deal with the PLO than support it mean Rabin should step down and call elections, Kahane, 27, said.

But neither is Kahane a fan of the Likud opposition.

He says there's "no difference" between Likud and Labor, pointing out that it was Likud governments which returned the Sinai to Egypt and began the Madrid round of peace talks.

Rabin has misled Israelis because he promised prior to his election that he would not negotiate with the PLO and not negotiate the status of the Golan Heights.

"Nobody would have voted for him" had Rabin said he would enter talks with the PLO, Kahane said.

And the prime minister "is in a big hurry" to implement terms of the accord because he knows he'll be turfed out of office in 1996, Kahane added.

Kahane is hoping for a "Jewish intifada" in the territories because he feels a violent uprising by Jewish settlers would topple the Labor government.

Even if the Sept. 13 agreement is not ripped up, there will be violent days ahead because "the Arabs will want more [than the pact stipulates]. They want everything. They won't give up."

Kahane was thrust into his late father's role when Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the far-right Kach party and founder of the militant Jewish Defence League, was shot to death by an Arab-American while giving a speech in New York in 1990.

The alleged assassin was acquitted of the murder but convicted of a lesser weapons charge.

Rabbi Kahane held a Knesset seat from 1984 to 1988, the year he was barred from seeking re-election on the grounds that Kach incited racial hatred.

Last year, the same rule was used to bar Binyamin Kahane from running for the Knesset for his renamed Kahane Chai-Koach party.

Kahane has not abandoned his father's most controversial — and for millions of Jews, unacceptable — belief that the "only solution" to the Mideast conflict is the forcible "transfer" of all Arabs from Israel, as well as Judea, Samaria and Gaza. "Let's send them to the 22 Arab countries," he offers.

Is it feasible to throw two million Arabs from their homes?

"It's not feasible to leave the Arabs there! The only way is separation."

As for world opinion of such a radical move, "who cares what the powers say? If they don't like it, it's their problem. America should take care of its own problems.

"As long as the Arabs stay, there will be trouble."

Kahane's Toronto visit was a stop on a North America-wide speaking tour to urge Jews to contribute financially to the settlement movement.

"It's time for Jews to wake up and give money to the real Jewish causes."

TZC helping settlers

By PAUL LUNGEN

TORONTO — The Toronto Zionist Council (TZC) is participating in an international effort to raise funds for the settlement movement in the West Bank and Gaza.

The TZC "is concerned about the settlers," said Helen Smolack, president of the organization, which has about 400 active members in the Toronto area. "We're concerned that the settlers have been abandoned and put to the mercies of the PLO."

TZC is unaffiliated with the Canadian Zionist Federation or other mainstream Jewish groups. Smolack said it is not a political organization and it has not taken a stand on the Israel-PLO accord.

Smolack said Jewish settlers in Judea, Samaria and Gaza have been "cut off from [Israeli] government funding and services and we are appealing to people to provide funds for services there."

The money goes into a general fund and is used for a variety of humanitarian purposes, Smolack said.

Smolack said money donated in Canada is sent to the Yesha Heartland Campaign, which is loosely affiliated with the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. One of its main spokesmen is Yechiel Leiter.

Smolack, along with Yehuda Poch of the Jewish Action Initiative, which describes itself as a "think tank group," criticized Canadian Jewish Congress president Irving Abella for comments attributed to him in *The Toronto Star*. The newspaper quoted him as saying neither he nor most Canadian Jews had heard of Leiter and that Leiter's organization was "unimportant."

But Abella told *The CJN* he had been misquoted. He said he had called *The Star* to voice concerns over the front page treatment of a story which described the settlement movement's efforts to raise money and its call on Jews in Canada and the United States to oppose the peace accord. The settlement movement had always opposed the peace agreement, he said, so he was puzzled why it was considered front page news at this point.

Had a major figure like Abba Eban expressed the positions taken by the settlement movement, then Abella said he could understand it being given such prominent coverage. But Leiter was not as prominent and his views were not new.

Abella said he objected to *The Star's* "insensitivity" in running the story with a "blazing headline [Fight peace deal, world's Jews urged]" after it "barely covered" Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's address to the Council of Jewish Federation's General Assembly and after Congress' meetings with Toronto Arab groups was given minor coverage.

Abella said "Leiter and his group are legitimate with legitimate aims to protect the settlements and to slow down the peace process." Congress, he continued, "stands behind the democratically-elected government of Israel."

NB professor a defender of Ross

TORONTO — Matin Yaqzan, the Fredericton mathematics professor who got into hot water over a column he wrote on date rape, has come under fire for other literary efforts that Canadian Jewish Congress says attack Jews.

Congress is adding its voice to the chorus of women's groups and some University of New Brunswick (UNB) students who are calling on the university to review Matin Yaqzan's teaching and writings.

"We have called on the UNB to do a review to determine if he has the appropriate credentials to be at the university," said Hal Joffee, national chair of community relations for Congress.

Yaqzan had been temporarily suspended by the university to provide "a cooling off period" after he authored a column on date rape in the UNB student newspaper, *The Brunswickan*. In the article, he suggested that "if a promiscuous girl becomes a victim of an unwanted sexual experience, it would seem more reasonable for her to demand some monetary compensation for her inconvenience or discomfort, rather than express moral outrage."

Yaqzan has been a longtime defender of Malcolm Ross, as well as an advocate for Victoria lawyer Doug Christie, so "his recent comments should not be a surprise," Joffee said. "They're true to form."

Ross is the former Moncton teacher who was ordered out of the classroom for authoring books that alleged Jews were involved in an international conspiracy to undermine Christianity. Christie has represented a variety of extremists who have attacked Jews in writing, as well as Imre Finta, a former Hungarian gendarmerie captain tried and acquitted of war crimes.

Christie had been severely chastized by the Ontario Court of Appeal for his conduct in both the Ernst Zundel Holocaust-denial trial and in the Finta case. Formal complaints about his courtroom activities were submitted to the Law Society of Upper Canada (Ontario), which dismissed them while finding that Christie had "made common cause with a small lunatic, anti-Semitic fringe element in our society."

In an April 13, 1993 letter to Harvey Strosberg, chair of discipline for the Law Society, Yaqzan writes that "it is my impression that some Jewish organizations are in the business of character asassination through the media. They do it in an organized fashion, and 'legally'. Their work is like that of a legal Mafia. They poison the public mind through newscasts, news releases and public statements."

Later, in commenting on the Law Society's critique of Christie's address to the jury in the Finta case, Yaqzan wrote: "Is it not true that it is mostly Jews who are after taking revenge? Is there no difference between Christians and the Jews? Only those who seek revenge should be ashamed of themselves, not those who are trying to stop it."

Later, after describing Christie's conduct as "exemplary," Yaqzan said, "few other lawyers seem to have the moral courage or stamina to stand the onslaught of the Mafia mentioned above. If Mr. Christie can be silenced there will be free sailing for the wicked and shameless."

Yaqzan's defence of Ross can be traced back several years. In a column that ran in the March 10, 1990 edition of *The Times-Transcript* newspaper in Moncton, he called the Human Rights Commission inquiry into Ross's activities a "witch-hunt."

"The charge of anti-Semitism. . . is absurd and cruel. If Canadians are free to be anti-Communist, anti-Russian, anti-German, anti-Japanese, anti-Arab, anti-Muslim, anti-Sikh, anti-Chinese and anti-Indian to varying degrees, why is it such a crime if a person is anti-Jewish and why should he be blamed for the misfortunes of the Jews since the beginning of time?"

Yaqzan then goes on to "cruelties of the present."

"While one cannot lump all Jews together and hold them responsible, the Israeli attack on Lebanon that killed 17,000 human beings compares well with Nazi brutalities."

Why does U.S. President George Bush close his eyes to that, Yaqzan asks. "Is it not because of the powerful Jewish lobby in the United States?. . . Is Ross that wrong in saying that a small number of Jews exercise undue influence in world affairs?" — P.L.

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Sol Lederman helped found Shalom Hartman Institute

By FRANCES KRAFT

TORONTO — Sol Lederman, president of Canadian Friends of the Shalom Hartman Institute (SHI) as well as of its international board, died recently at his home in Toronto at the age of 74.

Lederman, a Montrealer who moved to Toronto in the 1980s, was co-founder of the Jerusalem-based institute together with its director, Rabbi David Hartman, two decades ago. The institute includes an experimental high school as well as a beit midrash program where students learn Talmud, philosophy, theology and ethics.

This year the Sol and Edie Lederman Institute for Talmudic Research and Contemporary Halacha was established at SHI to train educators and focus on the meaning of Halachah in the modern Jewish world.

Rabbi Hartman remembers Lederman as "a deeply spiritual person who loved to study, whose life of prayer was done with great devotion and seriousness, and who lived a life of chessed, of overflowing kindness.

He is an example of how one individual, with total dedication and single-minded conviction, can make a difference in Jewish history."

Lederman's leadership positions included president, United Israel Appeal of Canada; member of the board of governors, Jewish Agency for Israel; member of the board of trustees, Institute for Jewish Learning; vice-president, Canada-Israel Chamber of Commerce; associate chair, Combined Jewish Appeal in Montreal; and chair of the Montreal Negev Dinner.

Lederman was chairman of the board of the Coinamatic Group, a company he co-founded in 1946. Coinamatic is a Canadian company operating throughout Canada and in Israel, placing coin-operated washers and dryers in apartment buildings.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Edie, and by their three children Joshua and Daniel, of Toronto, and Sary Manor, of Jerusalem.

Lederman's funeral took place in Jerusalem. A memorial service will be held on Dec. 12 at noon at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, 470 Glencairn Ave., Toronto.

Goebbels knew of Holocaust archival document reveals

By PAUL LUNGEN

TORONTO — Sol Littman, the head of the Canadian office of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre (SWC), has unearthed a British archival document showing that Nazi propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels knew about the mass murder of European Jews in 1942 and was prepared to discuss it with German newspaper editors.

The find has been described by a number of historians as extremely significant, lending further proof to the existence of the Holocaust and to the British government's willingness to look the other way while European Jewry was murdered.

Littman said he came across the document while searching through the British Public Record Office last June. The document is a summary of a speech delivered by Goebbels to 60 German editors on Sept. 23, 1942. It was obtained by the Polish underground and transmitted to British intelligence, which in turn forwarded it to the Foreign Office. It was seen there by all senior officials, including Foreign Minister Anthony Eden, who later became prime minister.

In the speech, Goebbels refers to the imminent murder of the remaining Jews in Germany. "There are still 48,000 in Berlin," he said. "They know with deadly certainty that as the war progresses they will be packed

Sol Littman

off to the east and delivered up to a murderous fate.

"They already feel the inevitable harshness of physical extermination and therefore they harm the Reich whenever possible while they yet live."

Littman said the British officials who read the document were more interested in Goebbel's comments on German morale, which suggested that the German people could not deal with bad news about the war. The foreign office officials saw the reference to Jews being murdered as "an aside," he added.

"The inevitable conclusion is that if Goebbels knew what was going on and shared it with 60 editors, then it's pointless to deny the Holocaust," Littman said.

"It puts a nail in the coffin of Holocaust-deniers."

Sir Frank Roberts, acting head of the central department of the Foreign Office during the war, recently told *The Observer* newspaper in London that "I don't think the reference to the Jews would have been the report we found most interesting. It would have been the fact that they were preparing for a long, drawn-out war."

He suggested the document might have been kept secret to protect its source, though Rabbi Marvin Hier of the SWC's Los Angeles office suggested, "It was deep sixed to protect British policy on refugees and Palestine."

Historian Martin Gilbert said the document is "crucial. . . because here you have one of the people who was perpetrating [the Holocaust] actually specifically outlining what was going on."

Walter Lacquer of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington said this was one of the first times a top Nazi leader spoke openly about the murder of Jews.

Anti-racist protesters target Heritage Front, Zundel's home

TORONTO — Police arrested five anti-racist protesters during a march and demonstration outside the home of neo-Nazi Ernst Zundel last week.

The protest march coincided with a contempt of court hearing involving the Heritage Front. The protesters gathered first outside the University Avenue courthouse where the case was being heard before proceeding to City Hall and then on to Zundel's home in the Carlton/Parliament area of Toronto.

While demonstrators associated with Anti-Racist Action (ARA) were pelting Zundel's house with paint and eggs, the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) was asking a Federal Court judge to find Wolfgang Droege, head of the Heritage Front, as well as Gary Schipper and Ken Barker, in violation of a court order preventing the Front from running telephone messages.

CHRC lawyer Eddie Taylor said the human rights organization alleges that the messages were recorded by an organization called Equal Rights for Whites, which was set up in the summer of 1992 in anticipation of a court order shutting down the Front's telephone hotline.

Under terms of an Oct. 8 Federal Court order, Droege and anyone associated with the Heritage Front are prevented from offering any telephone messages that express an opinion on race, religion, color or political issues, Taylor said.

The case was postponed until March 15 after lawyers for Droege and Barker said they did not have enough time to prepare in light of the introduction of new evidence by the CHRC.

Taylor confirmed that a former member of the Heritage Front, Elise Hategan, who is facing hate promotion charges in another case, has agreed to testify for the CHRC.

Meanwhile, dozens of anti-racism protesters, chanting "Immigrants in, Nazis out" and "Cops and Klan work hand in hand," threw paint and eggs at Zundel's home, which had been covered with plastic sheeting. One woman, who identified herself as a member of the Jewish Feminist Anti-Fascist League, led the crowd in chants of "Never again."

Scores of police, including the mounted unit and plain clothes officers, were on hand to prevent the reoccurrence of an incident last June in which anti-racists trashed Schipper's home. A few hours after the ARA rampage, members of the Heritage Front retaliated by starting a street brawl with ARA members in the College and Bathurst area of Toronto. Droege is still facing assault charges arising out of that incident.

Last week's anti-racist protest was criticized by mainstream Jewish groups.

"It's been our position that while we understand the frustrations of people marching against neo-Nazis and we support peaceful marches, we do not support or condone marches that turn violent and we certainly don't see the police as the enemy," said Bernie Farber, national director of community relations for Canadian Jewish Congress. Farber is monitoring the Heritage Front case.

Charging police as the enemy "erodes public confidence in the anti-racist movement," he added.

"We cannot condone unlawful means of getting the message across, but continuing anti-racist demonstrations of this nature appear to be the result of the frustration felt by many young people because of perceived law enforcement and government inaction," said Karen Mock, national director of B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights.

"They see the hate groups recruiting openly in schools and on campuses and gaining support for their racist cause, but they're at a loss to know what to do about it except draw attention by raising a ruckus that can easily get out of hand," she said.

— P.L.

Cricketer looking for teammates

TORONTO — When Elkan Reuben sees the lineup of countries sending cricket teams to the Maccabiah Games in Israel every four years, he asks himself why Canada doesn't do the same.

Now, instead of just asking that question, Reuben is taking the first step towards building a team he hopes will one day represent Canada in Maccabiah competition against Jewish cricketers from New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Israel and India.

Reuben, who was born in Bombay, believes there are enough Jewish cricketers in the greater Toronto area to be able to put together a team. It would begin its odyssey to the Maccabiah Games by participating in matches against other teams in the Ontario Cricket League and the Scarborough Cricket League.

By 1997, when the next Maccabiah Games will be held, he hopes the Toronto team will have improved to the point where it could form the nucleus of a Canadian cricket contingent.

Reuben is looking for as many as 20 men to try out for the team. Experience is not required — raw rookies are invited to participate. In addition to himself, he knows of two others who are chomping at the bit, ready to play. One is another Indian cricketer who played for India at three Maccabiahs; the other is an opening batsman originally from Israel.

Despite the onset of winter, Reuben expects the team to begin soon — indoors — at Action Cricket, a big gymnasium equipped with a mat floor.

Anyone interested in participating can contact Reuben at (416) 497-9469.

— P.L.

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World

Canadian, Mexican Jews share common heritage

By DAVID LAZARUS

MEXICO CITY — Perhaps the best way for Canadian Jews to gain some insight into Jewish Mexico's unique religious life is to poke their heads around their own backyards.

The two countries' communities are so culturally distinct that it's tempting to think the two nations have little in common, religiously speaking.

The reality, however, is that Jewish communities everywhere, with their common heritage and values, share at least some fundamental similarities.

Both Canada and Mexico, for example, have very vibrant Sephardi and Ashkenazi communities and enjoy low intermarriage rates.

They also place a great emphasis on the family. Both communities are often described as "strongly identifying," even though, in Mexico as in Canada, that means families joining synagogues but otherwise living secularly.

Parallels diverge, however, once the two countries' religious structures are compared.

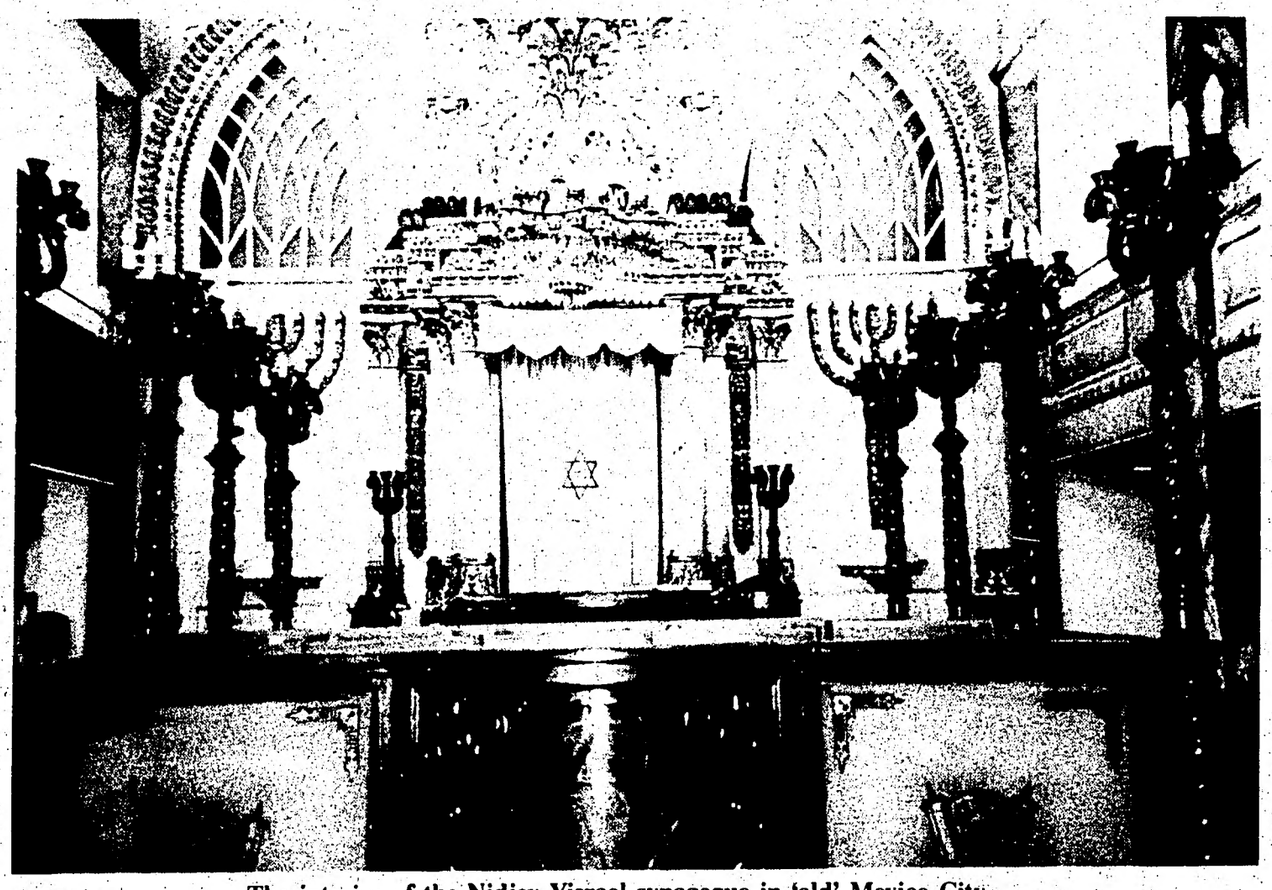
Canada has over 300,000 Jews, but the communities tend to have monolithic insitutions controlling their religious affairs.

Jews in Mexico, who by comparison number a mere 50,000, have by necessity managed to strike a unique, albeit delicate, balance that has permitted several distinct, self-supporting religious communities to co-exist and flourish autonomously, with their own rabbinical courts, religious schools, burial societies, kashrut certification bodies and newspapers.

In Montreal, to take one Canadian example, this is still unimaginable. There exists but one "officially recognized" kashrut organization. This body has been plagued from within by disputes between the lay and religious leadership, and from without, following the establishment last year by Rabbi David Sabbah of an alternative kashrut certification body for the Sephardi community.

Rabbi Sabbah, Montreal's self-described Sephardi chief rabbi, is accepted as such by some in his community, but not by the Communaute Sepharade du Quebec, the community's official representative body.

Rabbi Sabbah sparked another furor recently by setting up separate shechita services.



The interior of the Nidjev Yisrael synagogue in 'old' Mexico City.

Distinct religious community

How, then, has Mexico managed to keep several distinct religious communities thriving, each with its own "chief rabbi" whose respective authority is unchallenged, while this practice simply is not tolerated here?

According to Mexican community and religious leaders, the secret lies in invoking principles of mutual tolerance, if not mutual admiration, among the disparate groups.

Despite their relative small number, Mexican Jews originate from so many diverse backgrounds and countries — including Syria, the Balkans, Spain, North Africa and eastern Europe — that it would simply be inconceivable for them to conduct their affairs under one "umbrella" religious body.

There is not one, not two, but seven representative religious bodies for the Sephardi and Ashkenazi communities. The population ratio is 55 and 45 percent respectively.

To whatever extent the religious communities interact, it occurs for the most part at meetings of Mexican Jewry's central instituional body, the Comite Centrale Isaelita de Mexico, or at the Centro Deportivo Isrelita, Mexico City's extravagant version of the Y. It is there that Mexican Jews swim, eat and exercise together as a cohesive whole.

Here's how it all breaks down:

Mexico's Ashkenazi Orthodox community identifies under one name, and is presided over by president Israel Feldman, with about 10 Orthodox synagogues — ranging from "very" to "modern" — spread over the Mexico City area.

Two other congregations are Conservative: the 50-year-old Beth Israel, founded by Jews of English-speaking origin, and the 40-year-old Bet-El, with a Spanish-speaking membership and an Argentinian rabbi.

The Sephardi community is much more diverse and difficult to describe accurately.

The Communidad Sefaradi consists mostly of Sephardi Jews from the Balkans, North Africa and Spanish extraction.

There are also devoutly religious Jews — the Maguen David and Monte Sinai communities, respectively of Aleppo and Damascus in Syria — which are communities unto themselves and considered Sephardi since Syrian Jews originally came from Spain. They are among Mexico's oldest Jewish communities.

However, these two groups prefer to call themselves the "Arab" Jews and see themselves as having little in common with non-Syrian Jews.

So why the need for each community to be separate?

"It is not that the [Jewish] laws are different," observed one rabbi, meeting with a group of visiting journalists. "We are separated from each other by traditions."

The Maguen David community is so devout that it forbids marriage to converts. The reason? "We would rather sacrifice one person than the whole community," its rabbi said.

Fifteen per cent of Mexican Jews marry Jews from other communities, even though one rabbi said to verify the Jewish bona fides of a prospective couple — especially Conservative ones — takes an "FBI" level of scrutiny.

Despite their differences, there does not appear to be a sense of rivalry between the communities. Once fairly open ideological rifts have mostly been patched over and differences that do exist tend to revolve around issues like shechita and the wording of a get (Jewish divorce decree). That's why each community works best on its own.

If there is genuine friction to be found among the religious communities in Mexico, it is not between the Ashkenazim and Sephardim or the Maguen David and Monte Sinai Syrian Jews, but between the Conservatives and the Orthodox.

Rabbi Shmuel Lehrer of the Beth Israel Conservative synagogue, for example, said Mexican Jewry's Orthodox community treats Conservative Jews like "goyim."

So did Rabbi Marcelo Rittner of the Conservative Congregation Bet-El.

He said the Mexican Jewish community identifies more than the community he oversaw as a rabbi in San Paulo, Argentina, and he is pleased to see that.

Increase in religious 'radicalism'

But in the last five or six years, Rabbi Rittner has perceived an increase in religious "radicalism" within Mexico, which has increased the rift between Conservatives and Orthodox and created "one of the most strongly-divided yishuvs in the world." It has come to the point where Orthodox and Conservative rabbis meet "only at funerals," he said.

When a member of Rabbi Rittner's synagogue wants to marry a member of the Maguen David community, for example, "I have to give a letter attesting to his Jewishness."

Similarly, an Orthodox rabbi is never seen inside a Conservative synagogue, and both Conservative synagogues, Rabbi Lehrer said, have had to fight to achieve "community" status at the Comite Centrale.

Conservatives seeking a respite from such frictions in Mexico City need look no further than Guadalajara, where the tiny community of 150 Jewish families work and live cohesively.

The reason is simple. Guadalajara, with a Jewish community almost 80-years-old, has very few Orthodox adherents. The only synagogue, the Beth Shalom, is Conservative and its rabbi, Jorge Szteinhendler, is the community's only paid rabbi.

Still, Rabbi Szteinhandler said his synagogue made a special effort to accommodate the small number of Orthodox Jews who live in Guadalajara. Even the synagogue's mikvah (ritual bath) is 100 percent "kosher," he said.

Wherever Mexican Jews reside, there seems little question that the overall affluence of the community extends into the religious sphere.

Each community supports its own religious institutions. In Mexico City they are supported faithfully and very generously.

At every turn, synagogues are being renovated, expanded, redesigned. Automated bimahs descend magically beneath floors. Workmen hammer and saw, carefully positioning elaborate mouldings along ceilings.

One Ashkenazi synagogue, perhaps only 40-years-old, is undergoing a massive renovation, an apparent effort by the community to find ways to spend its donations. And from the looks of other Jewish sites getting rebuilt, it seemed that outdoing another community is a pretty popular pastime in Jewish Mexico.

This being said, funds also go to preserve a rich, historical legacy. According to Rabbi Abraham Bartfeld, an Ashkenazi rabbi in Mexico City, a generous amount of money is also spent on a growing number of religious schools and kehillahs, with many ba'al tshuvahs coming into the fold each year. Mexican schools, religious or otherwise, receive no funding from the Mexican government.

As well, Mexico's Jewish community works hard to maintain its venerable religious institutions. Mexico's oldest Ashkenazi synagogue, the Nidjev Yisrael in the centre of downtown Mexico City, for example, has been fully restored and is now operating again under a spirit of true renaissance, Rabbi Bartfeld said, its splendid, ornamental flourishes in striking relief against a background of dark, burnished wood. The city's oldest Sephardi synagogue is right next door and is also fully operational.

* * *

There are also other Jews in Mexico.

For many years, Mexicans of European and Indian ancestry — who call themselves Mestizo Jews — have sought recognition as Jews by the official community with no success. A visiting delegation of journalists heard no mention of them.

But according to a tour guide, the Mestizos, who number less than 100 and live in the village of Venta Prieta, north of Mexico City, are sincere in their conviction that they are "Israelitas," descendants of the 12 tribes. However, their claims have never been substantiated. The Mestizos continue to practice Jewish rites.

What seems in far less doubt is the vitality of Mexico's religious community.

The lines between church and state have been sharply distinct since the Mexican revolution, to the point where synagogues and adjacent community centres could not share a common entrance way and the property on which they were located belonged to the state.

But this may change.

Just days after a visiting delegation departed Mexico, the country "officially" recognized Judaism as part of a recent effort by the government to protect the rights of religious organizations.

According to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the new law was passed as part of an effort to ease hostility against religious bodies (the Catholic Church at the time of the 1910 Mexican revolution was considered a reactionary force).

Besides the Jewish community, 30 other "religious bodies" registered under the new law to acquire actual "legal status," along with the rights that go along with it, such as owning and transferring religious institutional property.

Rabbi Abraham Bartfeld

Continuity a key concern

[Cont'd. from page 1]

Even Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin touched on the issue in his keynote speech.

A successful campaign against Jewish "attrition" can be waged by "profound, indelible Jewish education," coupled with youth trips to Israel, which serve to bolster the identities of both Diaspora and Israeli youth, Rabin stated in a warmly-received address.

Continuity was the GA's "overriding concern," said Canadian Jewish Congress president Irving Abella. "It wasn't stated up front but it was latent in all the sessions."

For Abella and doubtless other delegates, the GA boiled down to the question, "Why be Jewish?" and why the answer is garbled for hundreds of thousands of young Jews.

Immediacy was stressed too: "The declaration was that we ought to get moving before it's too late," Abella noted.

While some Canadian delegates groused that they have little to learn from their U.S. counterparts when it comes to dealing with intermarriage, particularly in light of Montreal having the lowest intermarriage rate of any large North American city, Abella regards the American experience as a cautionary tale.

"We ought to learn from what they didn't do," he said.

More than a dozen sessions were devoted to continuity and they effectively picked up where last year's GA left off. Previous GAs tended to speak broadly of vision and rallying the troops.

But it was tachlis (substance) newly-elected CJF president Maynard Wishner said this year's GA addressed, and indeed, the focus was much more on the nuts and bolts of promoting Jewish identity.

In that light, Aaron Brotman found it ironic and disappointing that young people were notably absent or under-represented in the sessions on continuity.

"I didn't find it a good idea to exclude them. They should have had more of a voice," said Brotman, Toronto chair of the year-old Task Force on Jewish Continuity, Assimilation and Intermarriage.

The message the GA seemed to deliver to young people was "do as I say and not as I do," he added.

In any event, the GA did focus on specific initiatives that have encountered some success in U.S. communities. They included:

- inter-generational links and the important role grandparents can play.
- outreach to the unaffiliated. Oftentimes, disinterested parents can be reached through their children.
- visual observance. Children can become "hooked" simply by watching the kindling of Shabbat candles and other rituals.
- reaching out to Jewish singles. Generally, communities should view a single person aged 30 and over as someone who has been neglected Jewishly.
- strengthening formal Jewish education and making youth activities in synagogues more attractive.
- trips to Israel. The March of the Living, in which youths travel to the sites of former death camps in Poland and then to Israel, is seen as effective.

While Jewish continuity "should have been addressed years ago, it will also be addressed years from now," Brotman said. "It can't be taken for granted."

* * *

According to more than one GA delegate, it was dissent that was taken for granted. There was grumbling in some circles that organizers had refused to permit those on the right of the political spectrum to voice their views, something the Council of Jewish Federations defended [see "GA Kerfuffle, p. 11].

The issue came to a head in one session on Israel/Diaspora relations, when members of Americans for Peace Now, including its past national co-chairman, Gerald Bubis, insisted that the CJF policy was wrong.

"We would be a healthier organization if there were debates, if there were discussions, if there were openness, and then whatever we're going to do, we're going to do," Bubis said.

"But for God's sake, we're not children, and we all love the State (of Israel) and want the best for it. And we must hear all the voices.

"If not here, where, and if not now, when?" he asked. Judging by the applause, most of those at the session agreed.

— With files from JTA

Obstacles blocking withdrawal of troops

By DAVID LAZARUS

MONTREAL — Israeli ambassador Itzhak Shelef said he does not believe the start of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho will begin before the Dec. 13 deadline.

Speaking at a recent meeting of the Canadian Jewish Congress National Council, Shelef suggested there are still too many complex issues to be resolved and too little time to resolve them.

Shelef said one sticking point is the exact area for Palestinian jurisdiction over Jericho. Israel is thinking 25 square kilometres and the Palestinians see it as 550-sq. km to the eastern fringe of Jerusalem.

PLO negotiators are also asking for a "letter" indicating Israeli willingness to release a number of PLO, Hamas, Hezbollah, and Islamic Jihad prisoners as part of the "first stage" of the implementation of the Declaration of Principles signed between Israel and the PLO in Washington Sept. 13.

But Israel is adamant it will not free those "with blood on their hands" as part of the first stage, the ambassador stated.

Other factors working against the Dec. 13 deadline, Shelef said, include the PLO's inability so far to turn itself into a "political movement that can lead and direct a political entity."

Until now, Israel has been obliged to negotiate with a PLO delegation riven by strife. As well, an internal PLO power struggle is pitting leaders in Tunsia against those in the territories, armed members against the "politicians," and older generations against the younger.

"We don't know what will happen next week," Shelef said.

The lengthy negotiation process has also given Israeli and Palestinian opponents of the accord the time needed to take action, resulting in a potential "Arab intifada against a Jewish 'intifada'."

Other barriers include Jordanian fears that the Palestinian entity might affect the balance of power within the Hashemite kingdom. Shelef said Israel will continue the bridges between the territories and Jordan.

Shelef said Syrian president Hafez Assad, "insulted" by the agreement, has sent out signals that there will be no final peace without Syria.

Syria also wants an Israeli commitment to withdraw from all of the Golan Heights, guarantees on water and removal from the U.S. list of "terrorist nations" that makes it uneligible for American economic aid.

Israel, however, will not make any commitments until Syria spells out its willingness to make peace with Israel in precise terms, Shelef said.

But despite the numerous hurdles still to be overcome, the ambassador cited reasons for optimism in the peace process.

The PLO appears ready to live up to the terms of the agreement and discussions are moving along on related issues like refugees, water, and the environment, he said.

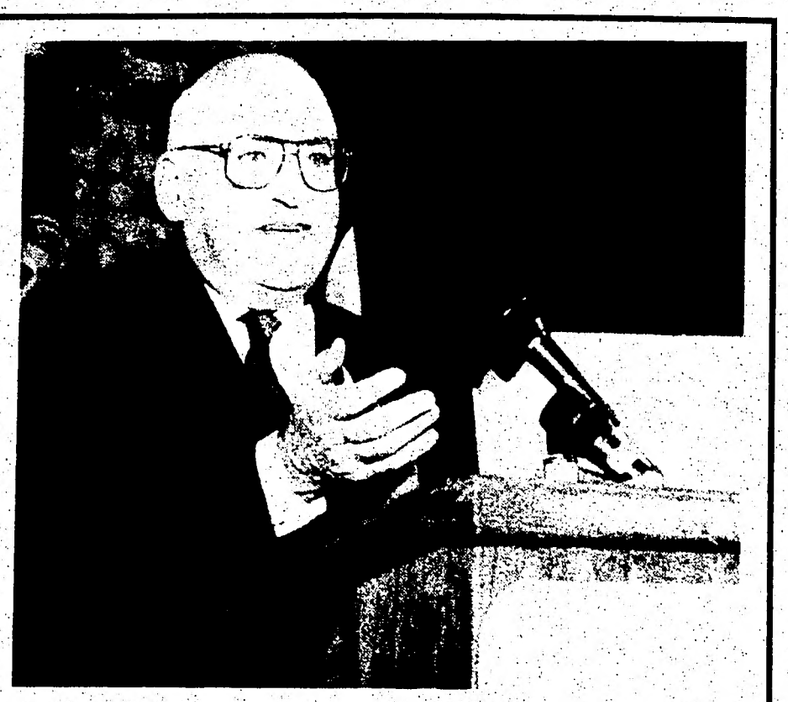
Israeli public opinion has fluctuated from 67 per cent in favor of the deal shortly after the signing to 48 per cent registered Nov. 19 after a series of terrorist attacks. But Shelef said this "euphoria to depression" range was expected.

Terrorist acts will likely continue, Shelef said, after a final peace agreement, but one should be "realistic and optimistic" about the future.

* * *

The ambassador was also pleased by the symbolism of Prime Minister Jean Chretien receiving Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as his first foreign government visitor. By tradition, that meeting usually has taken place with the president of the United States.

In Ottawa, discussions focused on improving economic ties, which Shelef felt would be a "stabilizing force for peace."



ROTHSCHILD RE-ELECTED

Kurt Rothschild was re-elected president of the Canadian Zionist Federation at the recent 7th annual CZF national convention. Attended by some 300 delegates and observers, the convention adopted a constitution and passed resolutions on Jewish education, aliyah, tourism and youth participation. A new slate of officers was elected: Rabbi Dow Marmur of Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto; Norma Rubin, national president of Mercaz Canada; Sidney Greenberg, international president, Maccabi and president, Maccabi Canada; Florence Simon, past national president, Na'amat Canada; and Manny Dalfen, president Mizrachi, Montreal.

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Candidate backs down from German presidency

BERLIN (JTA) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's personal choice to replace Richard von Weizsacker as president of Germany has withdrawn his candidacy following months of controversy over his remarks.

Steffen Heitmann, who resigned as the Christian Democratic presidential candidate Nov. 25, had managed to offend many Germans with his comments about the Holocaust, the status of women and his feelings about foreigners.

The Jewish furor over Heitmann began in mid-September, when he told the *Suddeutsche Zeitung* newspaper that it was time to put the Holocaust in its "proper place" in history.

"The German special role in the postwar period was, to a certain extent, a continuation of the Nazi times," he was quoted as saying. "That is over."

His comments were sharply criticized by the World Jewish Congress and by Jewish organizational leaders here.

Heitmann has also stated his belief that women should not work outside the home, and his views on foreigners were considered similarly backward by liberals here.

Days before Heitmann's resignation, Ignatz Bubis, the head of Germany's Jewish community, told the JTA that any of the other candidates for president would be acceptable to him.

"I don't know who I want, but I know who I don't want," Bubis said.

Bubis had supported Jens Reich, a scientist from eastern Germany, because he felt that a non-political person would be a good choice for the office.

"But the political parties didn't accept him," Bubis said. "That was a disappointment."

Ruling on 'Protocols' hailed as a milestone

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — Jewish groups are applauding a landmark ruling by a Moscow judge that *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion* is a forgery.

The ruling, which was announced last Friday by a Moscow district court, was the first such decision in the country where the notorious anti-Semitic tract originated.

The case was closely followed by the Simon Wiesenthal Center here.

In addition to labeling the tract a forgery, the court declared that publication of the "Protocols" by the Russian ultranationalist Pamyat organization constituted an anti-Semitic act.

The historic ruling concluded a trial that lasted, on and off, for 11 months.

The trial started when Pamyat filed a $19,000 lawsuit against a Moscow Jewish newspaper, *Gazette*, which had described the serialization of the "Protocols" in a Pamyat publication as an anti-Semitic act.

It is punishable under Russian law to incite ethnic conflict.

The court held that Pamyat was not entitled to any monetary compensation. It also fined the organization 200,000 rubles, or some $190 (U.S.), to cover court costs.

The "Protocols" were written at the turn of the century by Czarist secret police agents, who in turn plagiarized most of the text from an anti-Semitic tract published in France.

Although the tract has repeatedly been labeled a forgery, it has been a favorite of anti-Semitic propagandists around the world to this day to "prove" that Jews are plotting to dominate the world by first destroying Christian civilization.

In New York, the chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, Richard Wexler, applauded the Moscow judge's decision.

The ruling, said Wexler, "is a milestone in combatting anti-Semitism in the former Soviet Union, and it is hoped that it will serve as an example to other judicial bodies in the region when faced with similar cases.

"This is especially significant when we see an increase in popular anti-Semitism in the Russian federation," he said.

"It is hoped that the court's action will also send a strong message to anti-Semitic, anti-democratic elements in Russia that their views are unacceptable, and that czarist-era excesses will not be condoned in contemporary Russian society," said Wexler.

The Wiesenthal Center had provided technical and financial assistance to the defendant in the case, Tancred Golenpolsky, editor of the *Jewish Gazette*.

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The News in Brief

Rabin Ducks CJN Query

MONTREAL — At his press conference during last month's Council of Jewish Federations General Assembly (GA) here, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin dodged a question from *The CJN* on Canada-Israel relations and on proposed sales of Canadian arms to Arab nations. A *CJN* reporter inquired whether Rabin agreed with a two-year-old statement by then cabinet minister Moshe Arens, who said Canada-Israel relations "have nowhere to go but up," and what the prime minister thought of Ottawa's proposed frigate and anti-tank weapons sales to Saudi Arabia and another Gulf state. Rabin responded by saying "we need a new openness to review many parts" of relations with Canada and he praised Canada for having "the most effective" United Nations peacekeeping force in the Mideast.

* * *

GA Kerfuffle

MONTREAL — There was grumbling in some Jewish circles prior to the GA that only those who support the peace deal with the PLO would be allowed to speak. A group calling itself "The Jewish Action Alliance" of New York and Toronto issued a statement saying the "suppression of any opposition to the Israeli government ... speaks of the lack of democratic principles endemic to the 'Jewish Establishment.' " Likud MK Dan Meridor addressed one invitation-only workshop for Jewish students journalists but that was outside the GA. Newly-elected Council of Jewish Federations President Maynard Wishner defended the roster of speakers at the GA, saying it is standard practice at such events to invite only government officials. "The policy of the CJF has been to have the representatives of the government of Israel to be the formal presenters," he told *The Jerusalem Post*. "There has been no discriminatory application of that policy" at the GA.

* * *

BBC Lodge Donates Van

OTTAWA — Cancer patients travelling to the Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre will now ride in style, thanks to B'nai Brith Canada Lodge No. 885. In a ceremony here late last month, the lodge presented the cancer center with the keys to a new 1994 Ford Club van. The facility operates two treatment centres at Ottawa Civic and Ottawa General hospitals and patients are sometimes required to travel between the two for treatment. The lodge's "generous donation enables us to provide our patients with the care and attention they need during their treatments," said Dr. Bill Evans, the centre's CEO.

* * *

Shamir: Likud Won't Honor Deal

NEW YORK — A future Likud government will not honor the accord Yitzhak Rabin signed with the PLO, former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told U.S. Jewish leaders last week. "The moment Likud comes back, all that will change," he promised the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. But Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu told *The Jerusalem Post* that "as I have said many times before, a future Likud government would honor any formal international commitment taken by previous governments, with a view to minimizing the dangers to the State of Israel inherent in those commitments." As for Shamir's remarks, Netanyahu said: "I cannot react to news reports or to quotes which I haven't heard directly or in context." In his scathing attack on the present government, Shamir described the accord as "a political earthquake that may cause irreversible harm and damage to Israel." One participant said the reaction was "very favorable, but it was his crowd. He was preaching to the converted."

* * *

Relations With Greece Better

ATHENS — The Greek government of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou is serious about improving relations with Israel, according to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Peres made the observation here last Wednesday, the last day of his visit to Athens. The day before, he had met with Papandreou, whose Socialist government of the 1980s had cool relations with Israel and was sympathetic to Palestinians. Peres said the Socialist party today is "completely different." Greece and Israel reached several agreements on cultural and scientific cooperation during Peres's visit.

* * *

Mossad Executed Guerrillas

TEL AVIV — The Mossad, Israel's foreign secret service, carried out a series of assassinations of Palestinian guerrilla leaders in reprisal for the murders of 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympic games in September 1972, according to a former chief of military intelligence. The disclosure that the Israeli government had approved the assassinations of between 10 to 15 terrorists was made by reserve Maj.-Gen. Aharon Yariv in a television interview broadcast last week. Yariv, head of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, was at the time of the Munich massacre an adviser on terrorism for then-Prime Minister Golda Meir. According to Yariv, Meir had full knowledge of the assassinations and had approved them in advance.

* * *

Dinitz To Get Hearing

JERUSALEM — Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz is to be given a hearing by the attorney-general before a decision is made on whether to indict him, the Justice Ministry said last week. No date has yet been set for the hearing. If indicted for using agency funds for personal expenses, Dinitz would have to take a leave of absence, according to an agreement reached at the agency this summer. To prevent an indictment, Dinitz must convince Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair that either the allegations against him are unfounded, or that it is not in the public interest to prosecute him.

* * *

Koffler Chair Appointee

REHOVOT — Michael Hass, a Weizmann Institute nuclear physicist, was recently appointed to the new Murray Koffler Professorial Chair. Koffler, the Canadian philanthropist, recently completed a six-year term as chair of the Weizmann Board of Governors. Hass, an expert in the structure of atomic nuclei, is head of Weizmann's Dannie N. Heineman Accelerator Laboratory, which includes the Koffler Accelerator of the Canada Centre of Nuclear Physics.

* * *

Musical Appeal for Ron Arad

TEL AVIV — A song on behalf of missing aviator Ron Arad was released last week on Israeli radio and television. The song "When You're Home," with music by Israeli singer Boaz Sharabi, was also released as a music video, with lyrics in Hebrew, English and Arabic. Arad has been missing since October 1986 and is believed held by pro-Iranian forces in Syria. At the General Assembly in Montreal last month, Arad's wife, Tami Arad, appealed for his release. The videos were to have premiered last week in Israel, the United States, England, Canada, South Africa, France, Brazil, Mexico and China over satellite channels, including MTV and CNN.

* * *

Congress Wants Boycott Lifted

WASHINGTON — In a strong statement of opposition to the Arab economic boycott of Israel, the U.S. Congress last week overwhelmingly passed a resolution urging the Arab League to lift the boycott. But soon after the vote, the Arab League voted to continue the anti-Israel sanctions until Israel withdraws from all "occupied" Arab land and a Palestinian state is created. The House voted 425 to 1 in favor of the resolution, and the Senate passed the measure by voice vote. The lone member of the House to oppose the non-binding resolution was Rep. Nick Joe Rahall (D-W.Va.). Rahall has previously opposed U.S. government efforts to quash anti-Israel activities.

* * *

Consistoire Opposition Wins

PARIS — Those opposing the current leadership of the Paris Consistoire, the organization caring for the Jewish community's religious needs, won last week's elections. Some 31,000 Jews here were eligible to vote for half the members of the Consistoire, but only about 6,800 — or 20 percent of the community — did. Benny Cohen, current president of the Consistoire, was defeated and not one of the candidates he supported managed to win. All seats on the Consistoire up for election went to the slate of opposition candidates headed by Moise Cohen.

* * *

Italian Fascists Surge

ROME — Italy's neo-fascists have surged in popularity, evidenced by last Sunday's local elections. Among the races was that for mayor of Naples, where the late dictator Benito Mussolini's flamboyant 31-year-old granddaughter, Alessandra Mussolini, gathered enough votes to participate in a runoff election. In the Rome mayoral race, MSI national leader Gianfranco Fini also won enough votes to be in a runoff election. The scope of neo-fascist success in the elections was much greater than anticipated and stunned many observers.

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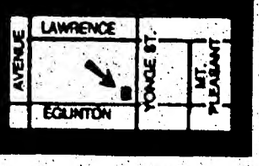

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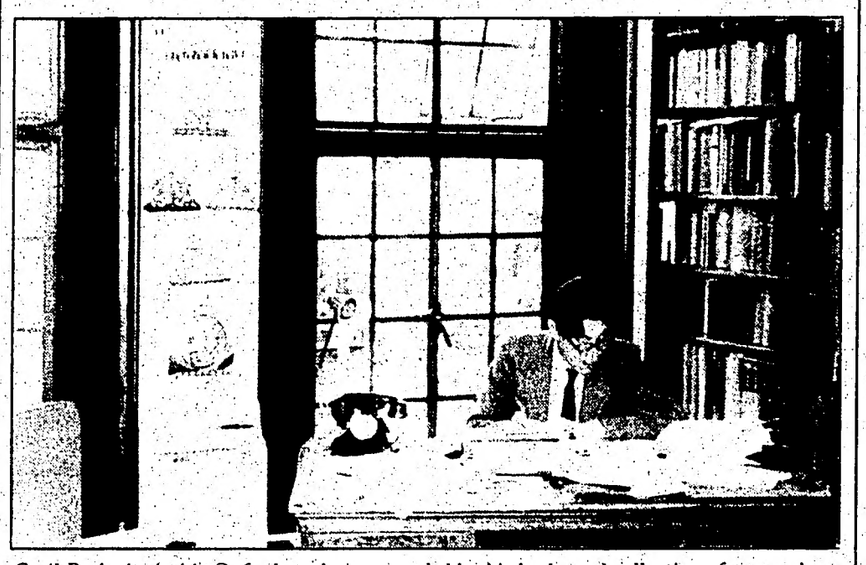

Cecil Roth sits in his Oxford study surrounded by his books and collection of menorahs.

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Rabbinical Reflections

By RABBI DAVID J. GOLDBERG

I was reading the Arts and Leisure section of the *New York Times* yesterday and noticed that another production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* was being presented on Broadway. The show, which is based on the Biblical story, is about a dreamer whose dreams come true.

Joseph was but one in a line of dreamers who have been important to our people. Joseph's father, Jacob, dreamed of a ladder which reached up to heaven from earth. Then came Joseph, who dreamed that his brothers' sheaves bowed down to his and that the sun, moon, and stars did likewise. What did it mean? Could it have been a sign of things to come?

From ancient times we have been fascinated by our dreams and their hidden meanings. They were thought to be signs from divine powers which could give information about future events. For some of our ancestors, such as Jacob, dreams were also thought to be direct messages from God.

Today, dreams are used to explore the inner chambers of our minds and to bring suppressed feelings into the open so that we may examine them. Through our dreams, we are able to gratify feelings that we may feel to be inappropriate and would be afraid to show in public. Our dreams can supply us with the fairytale ending to a problem that we may be having. In our dreams we can be whomever we wish and do whatever we want.

But our dreams can also make us feel guilty about the thoughts or feelings which they express about ourselves. In her book, *Necessary Losses*, Judith Viorst tells us about Evelyn's dream and her embarrassment because of it. Evelyn dreams that she has died. At her funeral everyone whom she had ever touched in a positive way is there. She says, "One by one all of the thousands of people whom I had ever helped came forward to praise me." Now Evelyn, in her life, had done many good things for others, so she may have earned this dream. But, she says that she is ashamed of this dream. "It nakedly reveals how hungry I am for attention, praise, and acknowledgement." Viorst says that all of us have impulses against which we struggle each day. While some of these struggles are unconscious, we are occasionally reminded, through our dreams of what is happening in our subconscious. These reminders make us aware of the person we wish not to be.

The challenge here is to be able to tell the difference between our dreams and reality. In childhood we are always wishing for something or dreaming about what we want to be or that something or someone will go away and leave us alone. As we grow older we learn to accept reality. This means that we learn to accept our own limitations and flaws. It also means that we establish reasonable goals for ourselves and learn to compromise if a goal is unattainable. Balancing our dreams with reality takes time and patience.

While learning to live in reality is important, we cannot truly improve ourselves and our lives if we fail to dream about what we want to do. I dreamt about becoming a rabbi and most of my experiences since I set that goal for myself were devoted towards attaining it. Likewise Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph dreamed about their futures and what they could do. Abramham set off, as God told him to do, and became the father of a new nation. Jacob saw a ladder reaching towards heaven, and he ascended his own ladder towards responsibility and maturity. Joseph dreamed of others bowing to him and he became second in command to Pharaoh. A person without dreams or goals is like a dead person. For without dreams we stay one dimensional and fail to grow and develop as we set forth to fulfill our dreams. College, a family, a rewarding career; these are some of the dreams that make up our lives. But we must temper our dreams with a touch of reality. We might not get into our first choice university, or mary the promqueen, or get that job of our dreams. But we must still dream about these things and attempt to set and reach realistic goals.

Yet only to dream is not enough. We must act upon our dreams and those of others if they cannot complete the journey themselves. Joseph was the great dreamer of his time. In our lifetime cite Martin Luther King Jr. as our Joseph. He stated his dream in the 1960s and began his work to realize that dream. Unfortunately he was unable to complete the task that he had set for himself. But we can follow in his footsteps and bring his dream to its full realization. This also goes for other dreams such as achieving a world where there are no hungry or homeless people, or where we can all breathe clean air. The dreams that are not acted on are empty and as if they had not been dreamt at all.

Joseph had God to guide him in his quest and believe it or not we also have God on our side. Let us be dreamers like Joseph. Let us dream of fulfilling the best that is within us and let us be brave enough to set forth on the path to realize our dreams in order to better ourselves and our world.

(Rabbi Goldberg is spiritual leader at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom in Montreal.)

Conservative leaders focus on unity

FORT LAUDERDALE (JTA) — The leadership of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism is hoping to bring the movement's various organizational branches closer together so that they work in a more unified fashion than they have in the past.

United Synagogue is the congregational arm of the movement.

The movement's other organizational branches, which have historically operated independently from each other, include the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Rabbinical Assembly, the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, and Mercaz, the Zionist Action Organization for Conservative/Masorti Judaism.

Most are headquartered in separate offices around New York. They do most of their own fund-raising and hold their own conventions.

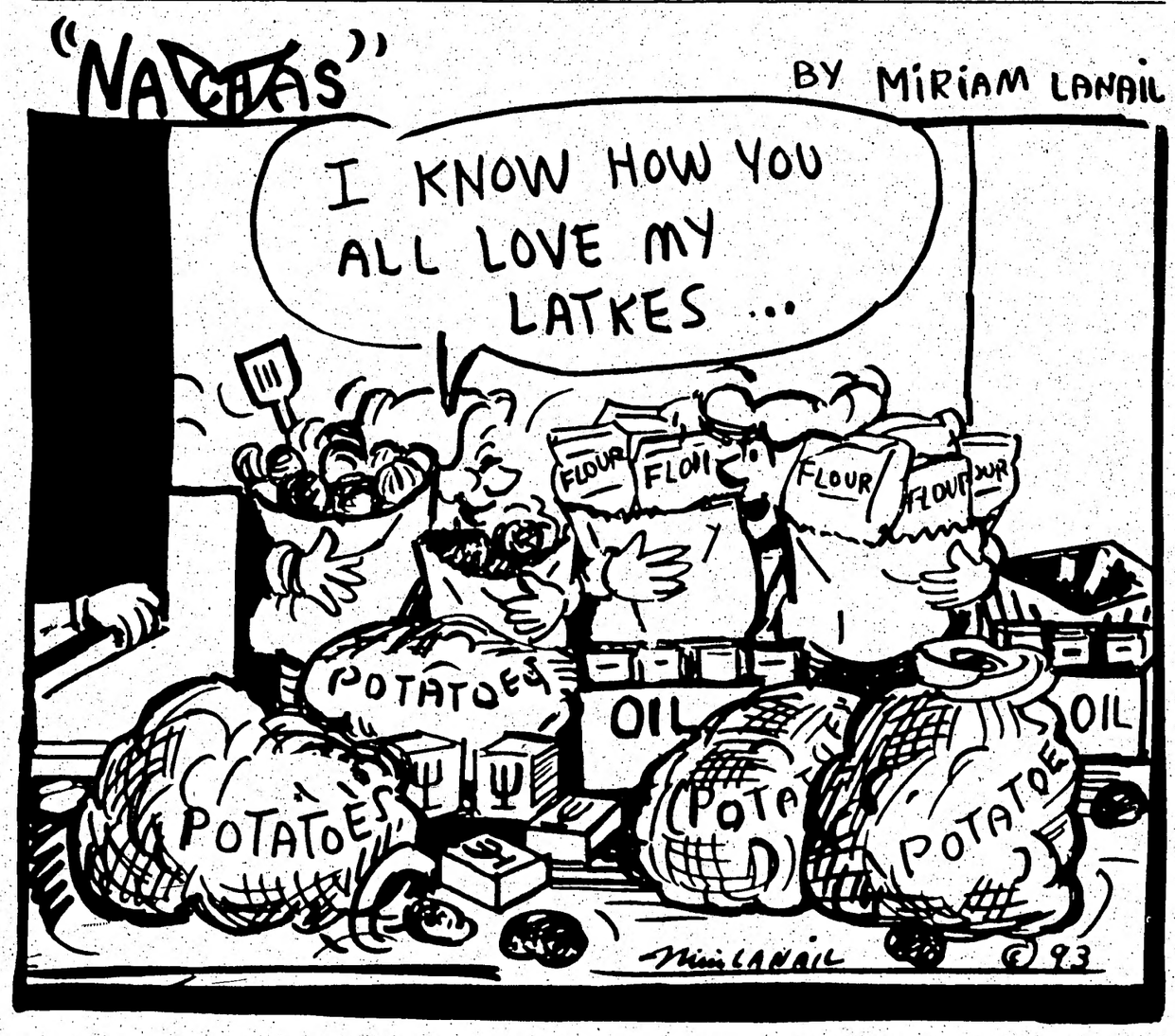
And from time to time, they clash ideologically and theologically on issues of movement-wide concern.

But at the United Synagogue's recent biennial convention, held here Nov. 11-15, the congregational arm's leaders spoke of their desire to bring the groups together.

"We're going to change this whole approach, and we'll be the model," said Rabbi Jerome Epstein, the United Synagogue's executive vice president.

"The focus will change to us because the leadership of the movement is beginning to see the need to bring people together to dialogue," he said.

"We should bring the arms of the movement together, like Reform. We have yet to be a unified movement," said Alan Ades, the United Synagogue's new president.



Front Line

Diaspora has no right to decide future of Israel

By RABBI J. BENJAMIN FRIEDBERG

Much indeed has been written and spoken about the "historic" agreement between Israel and the PLO. The awesome speed and consummate surprise of the events has elicited a variety of reactions including shock. The opposition in Israel, caught flatfooted, is in disarray. The unthinkable has been "thunk" and done, and the Israeli public and the Jewish world is becoming accustomed to new surprises, which inevitably will come.

Basically the issue is this — what is better for Israel? Is it better to keep the territories with its Arabs, and all the problems that entails, or is it better to give up the Arabs of the Territories — Palestinians, if you will — thereby giving up the Territories as well. The present democratically elected government of Israel has chosen the latter course and has decided that peace can come only in this fashion. They have found a partner in the PLO and things have changed forever — and many look forward with cautious hope. It seems that the majority of Israelis approve of the arrangements and the possibility of peace even if in a smaller Israel. They do so basically because there is an overpowering fatigue in Israel. As one of my Israeli friends put it, "I've been at war all my life. I've never had what you have — peace." Understandable!

There is no euphoria because the future is clouded. If this agreement is successful, there will be a Palestinian state, which the government of Israel says it doesn't want. If it doesn't succeed, for all the reasons we all know, then the circumstances arising out of failure may be horrendous indeed, and Israel may find itself more vulnerable than ever. Despite the risks, the average Israeli is prepared to take them.

It is not for me to tell the Israelis what to do. It is their decision and they have to live with the consequences. I may think the agreement is a bad one, done in undue haste, etc. But the decision is not mine to make. Indeed the question arises, "What are the rights of Diaspora Jews, if any, in reacting to the new arrangements?"

Rabbi Dow Marmur, in an article appearing in *The CJN* of 14 October 1993, poses a number of questions, or rather challenges, to some Diaspora Jews, especially those who essentially supported the previous Israeli government's policy — and that would include me. Rabbi Marmur challenges — and I quote — "those who have been opposed to us 'peaceniks' have said that we are flaunting our 'bleeding heart liberalism' at the expense of the young men and women who have to serve in the Israel Defence Forces to secure the continued existence of the Jewish State. I hope they will now ask themselves whether they have the right to flaunt their *ostensible* patriotism at the expense of those soldiers who would have to go on doing the dirty work of occupation." (italics mine)

In response I would say, as I always said, that we in the Diaspora have no right to decide matters of life and death for Israel and Israelis. We therefore also have no right to pressure Israel to retain the territories if that is not the will of the people, as it seems not to be. Israel's security is fundamentally its own decision, and our role in the Diaspora is to help maintain that security.

The same cannot be said of Rabbi Marmur's "peaceniks." While some, like Rabbi Marmur, are dedicated Zionists and criticized Israel's former policy in a responsible fashion, yet some Jewish "peace" organizations in the Diaspora acted irresponsibly from the safety of their living rooms here, bringing pressure to bear on the government of Israel to make concessions to the Arabs. They even appealed to their own governments to lean heavily on Israel. In doing so, they often joined forces with anti-Israel elements, who defamed and delegitimized Israel and weakened it.

The debate about Diaspora criticism of Israel is a red herring. It is the nature of that criticism that matters. The criticism of many "peaceniks" was geared to tell the whole world how terrible Israel was. It rarely, if ever, attacked the unfair and exaggerated media onslaught against Israel. It merely joined them. And it never condemned the violence on the Arab side. I remember pointing out to Peace Now in Canada, which claimed to be a Zionist group, that never once did they say anything positive about Israel. That was not then and is not now my understanding of Zionism. If one were to criticize present Israeli policy however, in no way does it defame Israel or delegitimize it. It merely shows concern for its security. Because it does not attack the nation's moral character or its historical rights.

Many "peaceniks" loved to pride themselves on their bravery in speaking out "as the prophets did." I'm afraid that Diaspora Jews condemning Israel was no mark of bravery. They were simply in "sync" with much of the rest of the world. Let's be clear! Any appeal to the prophetic model is exaggerated hubris. Many of those "peaceniks" were much more concerned with what their Gentile neighbors would say than what the prophets would think. No one would be more surprised than the prophets to be included in that company.

It is not so much whether we support the Israeli government's position or whether we can demand that Israel fight to keep the Territories "down to the last Israeli." Of course, we cannot demand that, nor would we. The question is, in the light of the "peaceniks' past behavior, what right have they to demand of us that we refrain from doing what they did regularly in the past? As for myself, even if I believe that the agreement has many flaws — if the negotiations succeed and we ultimately have two states or entities side by side — prudence dictates that we support the government of Israel to enhance the prospects of peace rather than make this a step to increased vulnerabiliy.

Burma Jews determined to save community's history

By SUE FISHKOFF

Sammy Samuels is 14. His sisters, Diana and Khazma, are nearly 20. Theirs is a community which is expected to die out, but is resisting. They are the last Jewish children in Myanmar, formerly Burma.

"The community will probably die," says a representative of the American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) who recently visited the east Asian nation. But he adds, "It's an amazingly resilient community."

At its peak before the outbreak of World War II, the Jewish community of Burma numbered nearly 2,200. Most had arrived in the mid-19th century from Baghdad, Teheran, and the Bene Israel and Cochin communities of India. They worked as traders and merchants in this far-flung outpost of the British Empire. They founded a day school, a Zionist organization and two synagogues, and even provided the capital of Rangoon with a Jewish mayor.

Just before the Japanese invaded in 1942, the Jews fled Burma for England and Australia. Only a few hundred returned after the war. After 1948, aliyah, intermarriage and emigration almost shut down the community.

Like most remnant communities, Jews who wanted to leave Burma did so when the doors were first opened, says the JDC representative, Dr. Irving Smokler. He doubts that the 20 who stayed behind will make aliyah. More likely is that the final generation will be absorbed into the greater, largely Buddhist, community around them.

Today, of the estimated 20 Jews left in Myanmar, most in Rangoon, there are reports of a family of five Jewish women in the town of Bassein and a few Jews in Taunggyi, but contact with them is sporadic.

Brothers Jacob and Moses Samuels are the patriarchs of the Rangoon community. They manage the Synagogue Trust that owns 27 open-air stalls and nine apartments. The rent collected on the properties provides the income to maintain the community's cemetery and the grand Musmeah Yeshua synagogue, built in 1857 in the heart of Rangoon.

The synagogue is opened every day for visitors, although the last regular minyan met decades ago. For holidays, worshippers are brought from the nearby Israeli Embassy to make a minyan. The Israeli ambassador in Rangoon presided over Sammy's bar mitzvah last year.

Smokler visited the community two weeks ago on behalf of the JDC, which sends $2,000 a year in social assistance for seven of those Jews, including an elderly woman and a disabled young man.

The socialistic military regime that rules Burma tolerates religious minorities, and the Jews are not persecuted. A lack of ritual and educational materials and their own numerical paucity are the greatest impediment to rebuilding Myanmar's Jewish life. Some Myanmarese told Smokler that the government's privatization program and efforts at economic revival might encourage Jewish expatriates to return, but Smokler dismisses that as "wishful thinking."

During his brief visit, Smokler met U Aung Kywe, a Buddhist who was business partner to Isaac Samuels, Jacob's and Moses' father. On his deathbed in 1978, Isaac made Kywe promise to look after the community.

A.K., as he calls himself in English, acts as the Jewish community's administrative consultant, collecting the rents, managing synagogue repairs, acting as liaison with the government and keeping the community's archives.

But A.K. has also taught himself a smattering of Jewish law and ritual, and has become the spiritual heart of the community. He paints scenes of Jewish life that decorate the synagogue and announce upcoming events. And although he speaks no Hebrew, he uses his knowledge of English to negotiate transliterated Hebrew prayers, and so was able to prepare Sammy Samuels for his bar mitzvah last year in this remarkable fashion.

In 1988, anthropologist Ruth Fredman Cernea visited the community on behalf of B'nai B'rith International. Inside the Musmeah Yeshua synagogue, Moses Samuels pointed to where 126 Torah scrolls once stood. By 1988, just two remained. The rest had been taken by emigrating community members.

Although their numbers are small and their future precarious, the Jews of Myanmar are determined to preserve their community's history. Writing about her visit five yearts ago, Cernea predicted that the community would celebrate no more "simchas."

She has been proved wrong, as Sammy's bar mitzvah last year showed. The synagogue is well maintained, and a steady stream of tourists pays its respects, encouraged to sign the monumental guest register on their way out. And the Samuels clan is trying to raise money — and interest — in the Jewish community.

Although the future looks bleak for the handful of unmarried Myanmar Jews, it's almost as if the community will not permit its history to be wiped out, no matter the odds. *(JPFS)*

Cosmetics industry proves a boon to kibbutzim

By CARL ALPERT

Those who have followed the growth and changes in the kibbutz movement will recall that one of the dramatic turning points in the evolution of the collective society came when the women began to demand beauty parlor facilities in the settlements. Today such services for the members are taken for granted.

The kibbutz has come a long way since those pioneering days, but pioneering can still take place on other levels. There is therefore some kind of justice in the fact that one of the most promising new commercial developments in Israel these days is the success being enjoyed by a joint kibbutz industry — the production and marketing of cosmetic products. These are not just ordinary creams and lotions, the sales of which run into the billions of dollars worldwide, but the studied, scientific exploration of the health-giving ingredients of the Dead Sea.

People come from all over the world for the Dead Sea baths, but the line of Ahava products enable women everywhere to benefit from the unique properties of the Dead Sea waters for their face and body skin care. Appropriately (and necessarily) the plant of the company, known as the Dead Sea Laboratories, is perched on a desert hill overlooking the sea, whose waters contain enormous concentrations of natural minerals. There is no need here for synthetic ingredients which imitate nature. This is the real thing.

Two aspects of this promising new business should be of interest. One is the success with which it is meeting. Exports of the Ahava line of skin creams, moisterizers, eye creams and lotions are today to be found on the shelves of retailers in the United States and across Europe. Japan has overnight become a big customer for the bath salts and beauty mud. Last year Ahava won a prize in Paris for its facial mud masque as the most innovative cosmetic product of the year. Orders for the line have been coming in from Taiwan, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Lapland, just to mention some of the more remote places. While we were there an agent came in from Nairobi, Kenya, to seek products for sale in that country. The Dead Sea Labs have set a modest goal of $20 million of turnover in the near future, but reality may far surpass that figure.

The second aspect of this business, which may some day rival Revlon, Lancome, Helena Rubenstein, Estee Lauder or the other giants, is the fact that this is in the full sense a kibbutz undertaking. For one thing, the company is a joint project of five kibbutzim — Hagoshrim, which has already made a name for itself as the home of Epilady, Ein Geddi, Mizpeh Shalem, Kalia and Almog.

The personnel are for the most part members of the kibbutzim. President of the company Dan Benayahu has been a member of Ein Geddi for 37 years, during which time he filled various functions, but showed his skills in management. Though he heads a big company, his salary goes into the kibbutz treasury, and when the duty roster calls for it, he performs menial tasks on the farm like everybody else.

"When the employees go home, they're kibbutzniks," Benayahu said, "but while they're here they have a corporate mentality." In addition, they have all received the intensive professional training which is required.

Further, the Dead Sea Laboratories provide employment for a number of Russian immigrants who live not far away.

Benayahu demonstrates his vision and planning by his insistence on diversification of the Ahava line, a total range of 12 cosmetic products from head to toe, including even packages of the precious mud which can be heated up to the proper temperature in a microwave at home.

But Ahava research scientists are already at work on a line of health and para-medicinal products based on the potassium, magnesium, sodium, chlorides, calcium and micro-organisms found in abundance in the Dead Sea. Preparations for the treatment of acne and other skin ailments are already available. Zeev Maor is a member of Kibbutz Kalia, but within the walls of the plant he is director of R & D. He told us of controlled tests now being conducted at four Israeli hospitals on treatments for rheumatoid arthritis and various dermatological conditions, all with highly encouraging results.

Ahava (the word means love in Hebrew) has set up a fully equipped health spa at the Nirvana Hotel, on the southern tip of the Dead Sea, where the whole range of treatments for both health and beauty are available, ranging from care of rheumatological ailments to relaxation from stress, using Ahava products. Etti Oz and her skilful staff know how to pamper their clients. There are many spas in the world, but there's only one Dead Sea.

It's a long way from the relative luxury of the Nirvana Health Spa to the traditional concept of a kibbutz, but that's Israel for you! And the benefits of the treatments can now be available to women, and men too, in their own homes. From the Dead Sea — with love.

Editorial/Letters

The Canadian Jewish news

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End the Arab boycott

The time has come for the Arab world to seriously reconsider its economic boycott of Israel.

It is simply inconsistent with the declaration of principles on Palestinian autonomy signed by Israel and the PLO on Sept. 13 in Washington.

The boycott, a function of Arab hostility to and non-acceptance of Israel, came into existence when a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict was not even remotely in sight. The Arabs hoped that it would cripple Israel's nascent economy and isolate Israel. To an extent, it served its purpose. The Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce estimates that the boycott has cost Israel $20 billion (U.S.) in lost exports and up to $32 billion in lost investment.

The boycott consists of a primary ban on direct commercial activity with Israel, a secondary boycott that blacklists companies doing business with Israel, and a tertiary boycott that targets firms dealing with blacklistees. True, the boycott is somewhat porous. Through third countries, Israel has managed to sell Arab nations, ranging from Lebanon to Iraq, several hundred million dollars worth of goods annually for the past number of years. But by and large, the Arab market has been sealed to Israeli products.

At a time when the prospects of a comprehensive peace agreement in the Middle East have never been better, the boycott can only be seen as a disturbing anachronism. The United States has taken a vigorous anti-boycott position, as has the Group of Seven major industrial powers. Yet the Arab League, which administers the boycott, hews to the unrepentant view that it should not be scrapped until Israel cedes all occupied Arab territories.

Nothing could be more wrong-headed. No one, not even the Israeli government, realistically expects the complete abolition of the boycott before the advent of an Arab-Israeli peace settlement embracing such countries as Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia. Nevertheless, in keeping with the spirit of Israel's historic pact with the PLO, it would be appropriate if the Damascus-based Boycott Office were to lift the primary boycott *now*. This, doubtless, would send an unmistakable signal to the war-weary Israeli people that the Arab nations are sincerely interested in making real peace.

That kind of a gesture is sorely needed at this juncture, when extremists on both sides of the divide are desperately trying to wreck the peace process.

Disquieting prospect

A mayoralty election which will be taking place in Germany on Dec. 5 will be a strong indicator of the strength which neo-Nazis in the unified Germany can muster.

Frank Hübner has received his certification as a bona fide candidate for the position of mayor in Cottbus, a city near the Polish border in the former East Germany. Hübner has been among the most prominent of the new neo-Nazi coalition that has inserted itself into the social and political dialogue in Germany.

He has been interviewed by the major American television networks, clad in brown uniform and boots and has used the opportunity to deny the Holocaust, attack minorities and condemn Germany's immigration policies.

Hübner's group, called The German Alternative, was involved, say the police, in numerous assaults on foreigners from 1991 on. Hübner is now representing a group called The League for People and Homeland and despite bureaucratic obstacles, he was able to secure the necessary number of signatures for his name to appear on the Cottbus mayoral ballot.

It is heartening to learn that most German observers have expressed disquiet at Hübner's candidacy, at the potential he exhibits for exploiting the unemployment situation in a town that was once the centre of East Germany's coal mining and processing industry.

The incumbent in Cottbus, Waldemar Kleinschmidt, is undoubtedly on the mark when he describes Hübner's candidacy as "doing great damage to our young democracy." The current mayor has also urged state officials to bar Hübner from the race on legal grounds.

There are 95,000 people eligible to vote in Cottbus and according to the editor of the local newspaper, Hübner will not receive more than four per cent of the vote and that vote, moreover, will be a protest against the current economic stagnation and not for the right wing political agenda.

It is to be hoped that Hübner's candidacy will be no more than a carbuncle on the side of Germany's nascent democracy in the eastern part of the country and that he will be soundly trounced. The fact, however, that a neo-Nazi can feel strong enough to offer his candidacy for public office anywhere in Germany is a disturbing commentary on the political immaturity of a too large a segment of German society.

NOW THAT'S ALIYAH!

The "largest family ever to make aliyah," according to the Jewish Agency, arrived from St. Petersburg last week. The 16 members of the Nikanarov clan are pictured in one of the three apartments they have been allocated in an Ashdod absoption centre. [IPPA Photo].

Letters to the Editor

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.

THE CHEINICK HUCKER

Years ago I read a short article entitled The Cheinick Hucker, as in hak mir nicht kein cheinick. It was the funniest article I've ever read in my many years of reading magazines and books. It was in a Jewish magazine of the B'nai Brith type, or other Jewish magazine. Unfortunately I lost it long ago.

I wonder whether any of your older readers may have also read this article, and may remember where it was written. If so, please write me at the address below.

John Freeman
370 Ridelle Ave., Apt. 1902,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 4B4

* * *

WANTS KIN AT WEDDING

I come from a very small family in London, England, one that has always been close. It is for this reason that I would like to try and track down a long-lost relative. The person I am trying to locate is Ruth Cohen (nee Beber). Her late mother was Mary Beber (nee Wolman) and father Philip. Ruth left England for Canada in 1957 and was married to David Cohen. They had two children, Andrea and Lorraine, and are living in Toronto or possibly Vancouver, but I am not positive. My reason for wanting to find her and her family so much is because in March 1994 I am getting married.

Linda Marcus
7 Downalong Bushey Heat
Herts WD2 1HZ
England

* * *

JEWS AND COMPASSION

I refer to Reform Program Angers Orthodox, Conservatives in the Nov. 4 issue of *The CJN*.

The anger is aimed at Reform Judaism for earmarking $5 million (U.S.) for actively proselytizing non-Jews.

"Conservative movement has relaxed its aversion to conversion programs directed at non-Jews living with or married to non-Jews." Orthodox leaders say, "Our job today is to reach out to Jews to be Jews instead of non-Jews to be pseudo-Jews."

Rabbi Alexander Schindler says "Judaism has an enormous amount of wisdom and experience to offer to our troubled world and we Jews ought to be proud to proclaim it with fervor and with pride."

Unfortunately the mayhem in the non-Jewish world must be addressed by us.

The Holocaust should have taught us that Christianity fails (miserably) to teach compassion for the slaughter of Jews.

Whether we like it or not, we must be the teachers of compassion. If we don't, who will?

Mollie Posen
Toronto

* * *

SEEKS NETHERLANDER

Mr. Metz from Abcoude in the Netherlands is looking for Willy Schrijver born 1938 in the Netherlands, emigrated 1952 to Canada from Noord Brabant.

Please contact The Holocaust Remembrance Committee, 4600 Bathurst St., North York, Ont. M2R 2V3.

Robert Engel
Toronto

* * *

THE CHESTERTON RECORD

The article by Arnold Ages, Anti-Semitic Surprises (July 29), has been drawn to my attention. The article cites Michael Coren as endorsing the opinion that British writer G. K. Chesterton was anti-Semitic. This is misleading.

In his biography of Chesterton, Mr. Coren explains that when he consulted the Wiener Library in London about whether or not Chesterton was regarded as an anti-Semite, the people in charge of this noted archive of anti-Semitic writing answered that, in their opinion, Chesterton could not be fairly described as being seriously anti-Semitic in either a social or a philosophical sense.

In fact, the library pointed out that, at the time of the Hitlerite persecution, Chesterton was a strong defender of the Jewish community. In a letter to Coren, the library official said "He was not an enemy, and when the real testing time came along, he showed what side he was on."

None of this is new. Shortly after Chesterton's death, Rabbi Stephen Wise, the American Zionist leader, made the same point in even more emphatic terms. "Indeed I was a warm admirer of Gilbert Chesterton," he wrote, "when Hitlerism came, he was one of the first to speak out with all the directness and frankness of a great unabashed spirit. Blessing to his memory."

It is unfortunate that the reputation of a great Liberal writer should be misrepresented. Like most journalists, Chesterton's writing must be read in the context of the controversies in which he was involved. But he began his career by protesting the pogroms in Czarist Russia and he ended his career by protesting the Nazi persecution in Germany. His close and lifelong friendships with Israel Zangwell and Dr. Montague Eder, with whom he toured Zionist settlements in Palestine in 1919, provide further indications of how far he was from being an anti-Semite.

It should also be pointed out that, in the same article in which he besmirches Chesterton's reputation, Ages devotes most of his attention to praise of Bernard Shaw. His praise is somewhat misplaced. Shaw was one of Chesterton's closest friends, and he also was no anti-Semite. Nevertheless there is nothing in Chesterton's writing to compare with the admiration which Shaw once expressed for Hitler, or to his continuing admiration for Stalin, whom he met at the height of the Stalinist terror.

Ian Boyd
Editor
The Chesterton Review
Saskatoon

* * *

SHELTER FOR HOMELESS

As the winter approaches, we often think about Chanukah, holidays in the sun and cold nights.

Recently, seven churches in downtown Toronto opened their doors to the homeless — a shelter against the bitter winter nights, certainly an improvement over a heating grate on University Avenue.

Can we as members of the Jewish community also respond to this terrible situation? Are there any buildings in downtown Toronto that could be opened to shelter the homeless? A Jewish response to the homeless would be yet another way we could participate in the caring for the community at large.

Miriam Kalushner
Toronto

Opinion

One of Hillel's founders celebrates her 90th birthday

By RABBI W. GUNTHER PLAUT

MONTREAL. Several months ago I wrote a column on the life and death of Dr. Abram L. Sacher, the man who was the spiritus rector of the Hillel Foundation and made it a prominent part of North America's educational system. After the column appeared I received a letter from Montreal's foundation which called my attention to a very special Canadian woman. Ann G. Bailey is one of the founders of Hillel in Canada, and specifically in Montreal. She pioneered the student loan and scholarship program which even today is on the cutting edge of Hillel activity.

Earlier this year, Bailey was feted on the occasion of her 90th birthday at a community-wide observance, which celebrated her years of service to young and old alike. Bailey first became involved in helping others as far back as 1933. Her husband was a prominent leader of B'nai Brith and she complemented his labors by founding the order's Women's Auxiliary in the city. In the crisis years that followed she worked with returning war veterans, refugee youngsters, Hungarian immigrants, Iranian students and newcomers from the former U.S.S.R. and Morocco. For her 80th birthday the Hillel Foundation created a special fund bearing her name, which sponsors an annual lecture on human rights. The student residence is named after her in gratitude for her years of service to the community. A belated happy birthday, Ann Bailey.

Rabbi Plaut

Toronto. A news bulletin issued by the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto reports the awful news that almost one in three metro kids is on welfare. In the last five years the number of children dependent on social assistance has increased by more than two and a half times. If you want to know the actual numbers of these children, here it is: 142,000 welfare children live in the city of Toronto today.

The big jump in numbers can be attributed to the rise in unemployment among families with children, which has greatly increased the assistance caseload. These dismal figures emphasize the need for a raised social conscience among all of us, and put the responsibilities of our own Jewish Family and Child Services squarely before us.

Hamburg. On Oct. 13, a court in a German city rendered its judgment on the man who earlier this year had stabbed the number one tennis player in the world, Monica Seles, in the back. His reason: he wanted his much admired Steffi Graf, Germany's leading player, to be number one in the world.

At the trial the accused, an unemployed 39-year-old, made no bones about his intent: "I just wanted to punish Monica Seles because she had pushed Steffi Graf out of the number one spot," he said.

Finally, the judgment came down: the accused was sentenced to two years on probation — which is to say that, with good behavior, he gets off scot free. The sentence was received with dismay around the world, even amongst those who ordinarily do not interest themselves in sports, and the prosecutor announced that his office had appealed the judges' discussion.

As for Seles who has begun practising again, she expressed fear for herself, for her fellow players and all potential victims, "now that I know that this sort of criminal will go unpunished" (she is training in Florida at the present and may make her comeback at the Australian Open this coming January).

Graf, who is indeed currently rated number one, voiced her own "total lack of understanding" and worried that this would reflect badly on Germany. "This will be yet another reason for those abroad to shake their heads over us," she said. Hopefully, the appeal will succeed.

Looking once again at the three items discussed in this column, I know that we live in a different and convoluted time. Individuals may play a role not only for evil but also for good.

Left-wing interests attempting to silence U.S. Jews

By DR. RICHARD H. ROLNICK

Those of us who love Israel believe that we have a moral obligation to support Israel by expressing our viewpoint on issues which are critical to the existence of the Jewish state. Recently, however, there has been an attempt to silence American Jews who disagree with the Rabin government. The term "Diaspora Lag" has been invented to convince American Jewish Leaders that they lag behind in knowing what policies are detrimental to the Jewish state. It is therefore important that we place the current discussion in its proper historical perspective.

American Jews and their organizations almost without exception uniformly supported the government of the State of Israel in public forums from its inception. It was not until democratic elections in Israel ousted the Labor Party and replaced it with the Likud Party of Menachem Begin, that leftist groups in the U.S. discovered it was okay to attack the government of Israel. This policy continued and had become increasingly virulent, as demonstrated by the activities of Americans for Peace Now and similar groups. At the same time, Labor politicians such as Shimon Peres could be seen attacking the Israeli government on American television during the Lebanese incursion. The intended effect was that of an Axis Annie or Tokyo Rose, yet there was no great outcry against these treacherous activities.

In 1992 the debate changed. Yitzhak Rabin was able to scrape together a narrow coalition utilizing the radical leftist Meretz Party and the politically bribed Shas Party. Suddenly, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, which had done a superb job of representing Israel's interests to the United States Congress, is attacked by Rabin. The term Diaspora Lag is invented and at the same time, the Israeli government sends their representatives all over the U.S. in an attempt to convince American Jews that logical assumptions regarding the need for secure borders and the need for democratization of the Arab regimes are false.

The issue is not one of Diaspora Lag. The intellectual capacity of the American Jewish community and its understanding of the issues involved is in reality quite high. The suicidal policy advocated by the small coalition that currently is in power in Israel is where the problem exists.

Last month, I was presented an award by a former Israeli ambassador at an Israeli Bonds reception. He tried to convince us that the Israeli government has a mandate to pursue these policies. When asked to discuss the results of recent Israeli polls, however, he could only say "polls lie." It is clear, however, that only those that voted for the radical leftist Meretz Party support this government's radical position. Many of those who voted for the Labor Party did so on Rabin's campaign promises that the Golan Heights would never be given away. It is superfluous to add that those that voted for the religious Shas Party are also opposed to giving up land. Indeed, the party is only in this government because of the money promised to its yeshivas.

There is no Diaspora Lag nor will there be one. Those Jews concerned about Israel continue to support the Jewish State through charitable donations, aliyah, the purchase of Israel Bonds, as well as the advocacy of those policies which we believe are beneficial for Israel.

Rolnick is medical director of Memorial City Rehabilitation Hospital and clinical assistant professor, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Baylor College of Medicine, Texas.

Thanksgiving gives plenty of reasons to be grateful

By ERICA MEYER RAUZIN

"Thank heaven for small favors," we sigh, when something goes just a little bit right. Baruch haShem, thank G-d, we say as the airplane lands safely, or the colicky baby finally falls asleep. We offer these mini-prayers — or even less-conscious equivalents to them — all day long.

We make the train just before it leaves the station. Thank you.

The car doesn't run out of gas before we reach the pumps. Thank you.

All the kids go back to school after two weeks of having at least one child sick at home every day. Thanks, again.

My litany of appreciation usually rumbles along on auto pilot. I know I'm grateful for just the happy hubbub of the normal routine. If we are charging along from school to grocery store to homework to dinner, then nothing is wrong. No one is ill. No calamity has occurred. Daily life may be frazzled and frustrating, but we're blessed if it's free of trauma. When the only crisis of the moment is a skinned knee or a scorched pot roast, when my anxiety stems from 20 chores to do in 20 minutes, when the car won't start and the clothes dryer won't stop, we're bothered but we're not devastated, and for that we are thankful as well.

Last week, we in the United States celebrated Thanksgiving — as Canadians do on another date, thus creating an annual opportunity to do what we should do daily. For the holiday, I tried to bring my semi-conscious thank yous to the surface, beginning with a word of thanks for the grace of these plain old normal days, slipping by like cars on a train passing through the time line of undisturbed, clickety-clack, no crashes.

Erica Meyer Rauzin

I also offered a thank you note for hospitable friends, for decent kosher restaurants, for carry-out kosher deli and eat-in kosher pizza. The whole food picture offers much more to be thankful for than it used to, from "milk" with no milk in it, to "meat" with no meat in it; to fish-based fakes an awful lot like their original namesakes entitled "It's No Shrimp," "It's No Lobster" or "It's Not Crabmeat."

These faux-shellfish came up last week when my sister-in-law and I — our husbands are brothers — were talking about the guys' favorite childhood dish: (you'll now be able to guess their geographic origins) shrimp and grits. I told her I could reproduce the concoction for them, Kosher as can be, using "It's Not Shrimp."

"True," she responded, "but where are you going to get some 'It's Not Grits?' "

I'm grateful for lots of the minor things that make life easier, and more fun. I'm glad the Monday *New York Times* crossword puzzle is simpler than the Thursday puzzle. I appreciate that the piano teacher comes to our house, so the girls can study music without an additional carpool. I'm pleased that everyone in my family uses the same kind of computer (Macintosh), so that they can bail me out when I get into trouble. I'm glad my brother came to visit, because he lives so far away. I'm glad I love my new neighbors, since I still miss my old ones. I'm grateful we're almost moved in, at last, and I'll be even more grateful when the rest of the packing boxes are gone. I'm thankful that UPS found my father's suitcase, that Miami found an ice hockey team, that Clinton is coming into his own whether the big city press thinks so or not, that Jane Alexander is head of the National Endowment for the Arts, that *Northern Exposure* appears like clockwork each week — a balm for the Monday-blues, and that this year all three of my children go to the same school on the same schedule, for the first time ever.

I'm grateful for our Shabbat afternoon women's class, for the children's Shabbat play groups, for the warmth and spirit of our small synagogue, for the serenity that descends when we light the candles Friday night and for control this one day gives us over all the other frantic days. I'm grateful that daily davening offers us an opportunity to give thanks every day; but I recognized the challenge is to really mean it, to really think about all these things. I appreciate the fact that good Judaic study books are increasingly available in English, that Judaic children's books are steadily improving in quality and that my kids are helping me improve my Hebrew.

These are little things, but I'm finding that the list adds up when I think about it. It's only that I need to think about it more often, particularly when I'm feeling put-upon, crotchety, overworked, under-pampered and deprived.

Thanksgiving may give us the opportunity to be more conscious of our gratitude for little things. In fact, it may boost our recognition that some of these little things — such as the kids being well and the plane landing safely and life unfolding in all its dailiness — aren't so little after all.

Sell not a Torah scroll, even though you may not need it

Talmud: Hegilla, 27a

Features

Israel forges ties with Russia

Sheldon Kirshner interviews Israel's envoy to Russia, Chaim Bar-Lev, in Moscow.

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

In 1970, when Chaim Bar-Lev was chief of the Israel Defence Force, the Israeli and Egyptian armies were locked in an increasingly bloody war of attrition in the Sinai Peninsula.

The war reached its furious climax in July of that year when the Israeli air force downed four Egyptian MiGs, piloted by Soviet aviators, near the Suez Canal.

The Israeli government was dismayed, though not surprised, by the Soviet Union's intervention. Since the 1967 Six Day War, Moscow had dispatched some 15,000 advisors, as well as billions of dollars worth of sophisticated military equipment, to Egypt.

To Bar-Lev, all that is history, part of the past. Today, as Israel's ambassador to Russia, the Soviet Union's successor state, Bar-Lev is plotting political rather than military strategy.

"We have a good bilateral relationship with Russia," said Bar-Lev. "Russia is a very, very important country for Israel."

As co-chair of the Madrid peace process, Russia plays "a constructive role" in Middle Eastern diplomacy. Furthermore, he observed, Moscow has done what it can to "moderate" Arab opinion toward Israel.

In short, Russia has been an "honest broker," noted Bar-Lev, who has been Israel's ambassador here since late 1992.

Since the former Soviet Union and Israel re-established full diplomatic relations in October 1991, after a hiatus of 24 years, the two countries have learned the virtues of co-operation.

In this mutually beneficial spirit, the two nations have developed contacts on all levels. In September 1992, the foreign ministers of Russia and Israel, Andrei Kozyrev and Shimon Peres, signed a wide-ranging memorandum calling for greater co-operation in political, economic, scientific, technological and cultural spheres.

Peres set the stage for that agreement when he visited Russia in August 1992 and became Israel's first foreign minister to set foot in Moscow.

By then, Russia had changed its Middle East policy from one of hostility to budding friendship with Israel.

It had opened its gates wide open to Jewish emigration; condemned a United Nations resolution equating Zionism with racism; co-sponsored the Madrid peace process; forged links with such conservative Arab regimes as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait; and backed a United States-led coalition against Iraq.

In the two years since full relations were resumed, a steady stream of top-level Russian and Israeli visitors, notably cabinet ministers, have made stops in Jerusalem and Moscow.

The most prominent Russian guest has been Mikhail Gorbachev, the last Soviet president and secretary of the Communist party. He visited Israel in June 1992. On the eve of his departure, he said: "It is of crucial importance that the ties between Israel and Russia be excellent."

More than any other Soviet politician, Gorbachev made possible that rapprochement.

Gorbachev, a Communist reformer, assumed power in March 1985, when Soviet-Israeli relations were frosty and Moscow ardently backed such radical, vehemently anti-Israel Arab states as Syria, Iraq and Libya.

In 1948, the Soviet Union had been the first country to recognize Israel. But as the Cold War deepened and Israel drew closer to the United States, Israel's ties with the Soviet Union frayed.

After the Six Day War, Israel and the Soviet Union were outright adversaries, politically and militarily. Gorbachev, partly in a bid to improve Moscow's profile in Washington, began to moderate the Soviet Union's attitude toward Israel.

It was a gradual process.

In 1985, *Izvestiya*, the influential newspaper, carried a congratulatory message from Israeli President Chaim Herzog on the 40th anniversary of the Allied victory over Nazi Germany. The Soviet and Israeli ambassadors in Paris met. In a further gesture, Moscow allowed Israel to establish a mission in Poland for the first time since the Six Day War.

In 1986, after a well-publicized Israeli-Soviet meeting in Finland, Moscow announced its intention to send a consular team to Israel. The following year, a Soviet correspondent visited Israel and produced a series of fairly balanced reports. Several Refuseniks, notably Anatoly Sharansky, were released. On a visit to Damascus, Gorbachev declared that the absence of Israeli-Soviet relations "cannot be considered normal," and reiterated the Soviet view that Israel had a right to a "secure and peaceful existence."

Shortly afterward, a team of Soviet diplomats arrived in Israel, supposedly to take an inventory of Russian Orthodox church property. In September, with Moscow's acquiescence, Israel set up a mission in Budapest. This was followed by a meeting between the Israeli and Soviet foreign ministers at the United Nations.

In 1988, Gorbachev told PLO chairman Yasser Arafat that recognition of Israel was essential and that Israel's national interests had to be taken into account in any peace settlement. Shortly thereafter, Israeli diplomats were given permission to establish a low-level office in Moscow.

Bilateral relations improved still more dramatically in 1989 and 1990, as Moscow liberalized its immigration policy and further high-level political contacts continued. By 1991, on the eve of the Soviet Union's demise, Moscow and Jerusalem had normalized their relationship.

The Soviet Union's first ambassador to Israel since 1967 arrived in Tel Aviv literally days before the official collapse of the Soviet Union. He was subsequently appointed Russia's representative to the Jewish state.

His Israeli counterpart, Aryeh Levin, reopened Israel's old embassy at 56 Bolshaya Ordinka, not far from Red Square. From 1967 to 1991, Israel had paid rent on this low-rise building, hoping to use it again one day.

Chaim Bar-Lev in his Moscow office. [Sheldon Kirshner photo]

Bar-Lev, who served as minister of police in Israel's second national unity government, took up residence in Moscow shortly after Levin's departure.

A phlegmatic, no-nonsense person with a stiff military bearing, Bar-Lev is confident that Israel and Russia can deepen their bilateral relations.

The die has been cast. Recently, six agreements related to commerce, culture, science and agriculture were signed. Five Russian ministers have just returned from visits to Israel. There have been exchanges between Israeli and Russian artists. Two Israeli book exhibitions have been held in Moscow.

Although numerous Israeli foods — from Jaffa oranges to Telma soup mixes bearing Hebrew lettering — can be found in Russian stores nowadays, Israel's volume of trade with Russia can stand improvement. "It's not very impressive," Bar-Lev admitted. "In 1992 it was $140 million. But the rate of growth is good. We started with practically zero. In 1991, it was up to $30 million. We expect a substantial increase in 1993."

Israel's main exports so far are processed food, agricultural products and medical equipment. Israeli imports include timber and minerals.

Tourism is picking up. El Al and Aeroflot have regularly-scheduled flights to and from Moscow and Tel Aviv.

The prospects for scientific co-operation loom large. Last year, for example, a senior official from Russia's space agency talked of the possibility of a joint flight of Russian and Israeli cosmonauts.

On the political level, Moscow no longer demands a firm commitment from Israel to withdraw to its pre-1967 armistice lines, said Bar-Lev. And, he added, Russia does not insist that only a full-fledged Palestinian state can satisfy the Palestinians' yearning for self-determination.

"Russia," he said, "will accept any agreement reached between Israel and the Arabs."

Bar-Lev is prepared to meet the PLO's emissary in Moscow, but only in his capacity as a Palestinian representative, not as the representative of a Palestinian state.

He expects Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to pay an official visit to Russia in the spring. "Russia sees Israel as a small but important country."

Rabin's trip has been cancelled several times because of the economic and political turmoil that has roiled Russia since the fall of the Soviet Union.

Unlike observers in the Jewish community, Bar-Lev doubts whether Israel's relations with Russia would have been adversely affected had President Boris Yeltsin's parliamentary foes toppled him last October.

Yeltsin's chief opponents, former vice-president Alexsandr Rutskoi and speaker of parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov, both paid visits to Israel and were "very impressed," Bar-Lev pointed out.

Yet, as Bar-Lev realizes, there are conservative elements within the Russian foreign ministry who resent and oppose Russia's stance in the Middle East. They believe that the "new thinking," which has characterized Russian policy since the Gorbachev era, is antithetical to Russia's integral interests. They complain, for instance, that Russia has turned its back on old allies like Iraq and Libya, and that Russian policy is generally too pro-Western.

Yeltsin has asserted that Russia's objective is a policy that is balanced equally between East and West.

Yeltsin's critics also complain bitterly that Russian arms sales — a prime source of badly-needed hard currency — are lagging.

In 1986, the Soviet Union exported some $28 billion (U.S.) worth of weaponry and ammunition, making it one of the world's main merchants of death. Syria and Iraq were among its best clients.

But in the past two years, as Russia has converted its defence industry to civilian production and insisted on straight cash transactions, sales have plummeted.

Russia, however, remains a dominant force in the business, and leading Russian officials have made it clear that Moscow is seeking new markets to prop up its sagging economy.

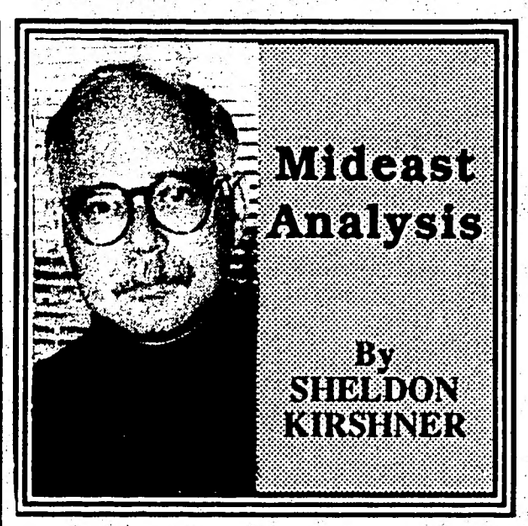
In the Middle East, Russia has reportedly signed contracts with Iran and Syria. Iran has apparently bought three Kilo-class submarines and 24 SU-24 bombers. Syria is due to take delivery of 300 T-72 and T-74 tanks, 24 Mig-29s, 12 SU-27 bombers and Scud-C ballistic missiles.

Not surprisingly, Israel opposes such sales. "But being realistic, we know we can't protest each sale," said Bar-Lev. "Russia claims it's not selling weapons of mass destruction."

And personally, he doubts whether these sales will upset the balance of power in the region.

Israel's new military attache, who took up his duties in Moscow last August, is monitoring the situation. (Russia's attache is expected in Tel Aviv shortly.)

Bar-Lev strongly believes that Israel, militarily though advanced it is, can learn much from Russia with respect to doctrine and weapons. Certainly, Bar-Lev, given his experiences during the War of Attrition, can teach the Russians a thing or two.



Mideast Analysis

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Likud's Netanyahu gets left behind

These are the worst of times for Benjamin Netanyahu, the embattled leader of the Likud party.

Like almost everyone else, Netanyahu was caught unawares by Israel's historic Sept. 13 peace agreement with the PLO.

In one fell swoop, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who had previously opposed talks with the PLO, pulled the rug from under Likud. Though wary, the majority of Israelis backed the accord, leaving Netanyahu in the lurch as yesterday's man.

Support for Rabin's rapprochement with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat has softened since the deaths of nine Israeli settlers and soldiers at the hands of Palestinian extremists. But most Israelis still appear to favor Rabin's broad policy of making peace with the Arabs.

This is not Netanyahu's sole problem. Much to his chagrin, he has failed to rally his party fully behind him in his vehement opposition to the pact.

Rallies orchestrated by Likud largely attracted fringe elements — settlers and yeshivah students — rather than the core of Likud's secular constituency of workers, Sephardis and small businessmen.

Three of Likud's 32 Knesset members, including the recently-elected mayor of Tel Aviv, Ronni Milo, defied Netanyahu and abstained on Rabin's plan, which calls for limited Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Futhermore, 15 Likud mayors came down on the side of the Labor government.

Since the Knesset's endorsement of the agreement, Netanyahu has come under fire from bitter rival Ariel Sharon, a former defence minister.

Sharon has contemptuously described the accord as "an act of madness." But, rather disengenuously, he has implied that Netanyahu should deal with the situation as it is and not as it should be, and called for a "collective leadership of experienced men" to cope with this revolutionary turn in Israeli politics.

Some internal critics, principally Meir Sheetrit, have gone as far as to suggest that Netanyahu is simply out of touch with reality and should revise his tactics before Likud is consigned to irrelevancy.

Netanyahu believes the agreement is a mortal threat to Israel, a precursor to a Palestinian state and a guarantee of increased tension, terrorism and, ultimately, war. On the other hand, he has said he would not necessarily cancel it if he became prime minister.

Rabin's scheme for Palestinian self-determination, in exchange for PLO recognition and acceptance of Israel, has nearly torn Likud asunder.

After Likud's defeat in the June 1992 general election, Moshe Arens, a Likud stalwart, espoused a concept under which Israel would withdraw from the volatile Gaza Strip unilaterally and grant Palestinians autonomy there.

With Arens' resignation, the proposal was taken up by then Police Minister Ronni Milo of Likud's moderate wing. But the party rejected it at its central committee meeting last May.

At best, Netanyahu is willing to offer the Palestinians extremely limited autonomy in non-contiguous, heavily Arab populated pockets of the West Bank and Gaza.

The Palestinian question, of course, is not his only concern. Netanyahu is lobbying vigorously against a possible Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, an issue that will come to a head sooner rather than later.

Netanyahu claims that Rabin lacks a mandate to relinquish land, but this assertion does not square with the facts. During the election, the Labor party made it abundantly clear that territorial compromise was an integral part of its plank.

It is true that Rabin always dismissed the notion that the PLO could be Israel's negotiating partner. But politics is a dynamic process, and once Rabin concluded that the PLO had changed and that it represented the Palestinians, he had no alternative but to modify Israel's basic strategy.

It remains to be seen whether Netanyahu can jettison his ideological baggage and adjust to the new realities.

Families discuss their feelings about learning a child is gay

By FRANCES KRAFT

TORONTO — Discovering that one's son or daughter is gay can be the most difficult experience for some parents to face.

"Your child comes out of the closet, and you go in," explained Bernie, the father of a lesbian daughter as well as a heterosexual one.

Bernie, who requested that his last name not appear in print, was one of six panelists at a recent program run by York University's Jewish Student Federation (JSF). Oy Vay, My Child is Gay, a lunchtime program organized by the JSF's Coalition for Jewish Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Students, attracted a larger than average crowd of students.

The panelists included three parents and three siblings. The siblings contrasted markedly with the parent panelists in their initial responses to learning that a close family member was gay. Michael (a pseudonym used out of respect for his parents' wishes) felt that his relationship with his gay brother improved immensely once he learned the truth.

"Living with him was hard, because he kept this bottled inside," Michael said. "He never really talked. Now things are completely different. His happiness is the most important thing."

Learning that her sister was a lesbian was a relief for Alison (all siblings are being referred to by pseudonyms because of their parents' wishes). "During high school, she'd go out at 11 p.m. and come in at 5 a.m. For the longest time I thought she was a prostitute. I knew there was something major going on, but I didn't know what it was. When she told me, I thought 'Maybe now some barriers can come down and we can be friends'."

Bernie recalled feeling "shock and disbelief" when his daughter came out. Over the past six years, he and his wife have been learning more about homosexuality and striving towards acceptance. Two years ago they began to come out to friends and relatives. He credits the support group for families of gays and lesbians at Holy Blossom Temple for bringing him through.

"You can't do it alone," said Ruth Miller, whose son came out eight years ago at the age of 17. "I think a lot of parents have suspicions, but it's always an emotional revelation. Then you go through what I call a revolution, where you evolve to the point where you feel good.

"As far as I'm concerned, being gay is like being left-handed. One day I hope that when parents' little babies are born, they will say, 'I wonder whether this child will be right-handed or left-handed. I wonder if they'll grow up to be gay, straight or bisexual'."

Tova, the mother of a gay son, knew little about homosexuality. She didn't believe it was possible for her son to be gay, she said. Her reaction on meeting his friends was, "My God, they're such nice people."

Tova was overwhelmed by the support she received when she told people about her son. "I didn't have one negative experience," she said.

Aliza, whose brother is gay, reported that her mother found strength from the television show *Dynasty*. "She said, 'If they have a gay son, I can handle it'."

Aliza herself had mixed feelings when her brother came out. "Deep inside I was hoping there was a way to change [his sexual orientation]," she admitted. The lack of continuity is an issue for her.

Michael also feels strongly about continuity, "but to deny yourself happiness just to reproduce, I think is one of the stupidest things I've ever heard."

The support group at Holy Blossom is the only one of its kind to the panelists' knowledge. For further information, call (416) 763-9111. Confidentiality is assured.

Gay students coalition working with JSF committee

TORONTO — The JSF's Coalition for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Students is now operating in tandem with a JSF board committee consisting of four Orthodox members of the JSF board. The committee was established at a recent board meeting to ensure that no group is offended by the Coalition's sometimes controversial programming.

The coalition got off the ground in late spring with a support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Jewish students, which is ongoing. They started planning open programs this fall.

"JSF is a place for every Jew on campus," JSF executive director Claire Sookman told *The CJN*. "By having this [committee], we're saying, 'Yes, you have a place, but we also want to make sure that [other students' feelings are not overlooked]'. I think it's great that the Orthodox and the Coalition are working together."

-F.K.

Ties with Vatican said not imminent

By MOURA WOLPERT

HAMILTON — Those who put a time table on current Israel-Vatican talks "are really barking at the moon," a consultant to the talks told some 200 guests at a recent Sunday breakfast at Adas Israel Synagogue here.

Prof. Gerald Meister said he does not know when relations with the Holy See will be established.

Meister later told *The CJN* that "the talks are shlepping on [because] Rome is making certain demands which Israel cannot accept.

"Israel is a sovereign state and there has to be an adjustment in the mindset of certain people in Rome that we are no longer a people that comes on bended knee to ask for the permission and the protection of the Holy See," he said.

Director of The Israel Institute for Interreligious Studies and a member of the faculties of several Roman Catholic and Anglican seminaries, Meister is also rabbi of an Orthodox congregation in New York.

Meister was in Hamilton as guest speaker at a State of Israel Bonds B'nai Brith Hamilton breakfast honoring Mayor Robert Morrow.

Morrow was presented with the City of Jerusalem Peace Award.

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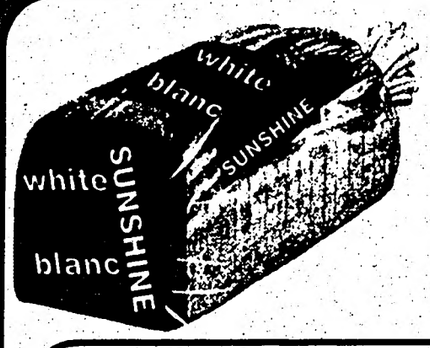

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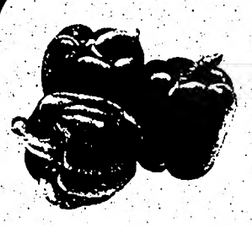

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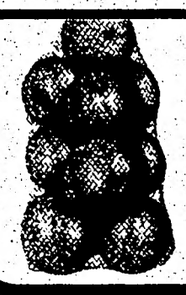

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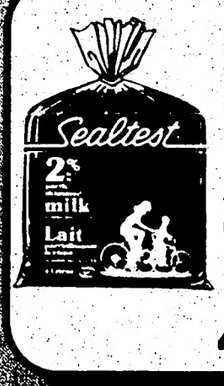

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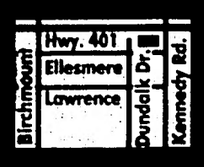

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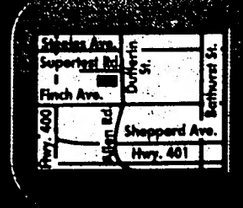

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Aggressive aliyah program helping to settle 'Soviet' kids

TORONTO — The Jewish Agency is settling several thousand children from the former Soviet Union in Israel, without their parents. It's part of an aggressive Youth Aliyah program underway in Russia and the surrounding republics.

"We are going back to Youth Aliyah as it was conceived 60 years ago," said Agency chair Mendel Kaplan to a meeting of Toronto's top UJA campaigners. "One thousand youngsters signed up in the first month."

Kaplan's comments echoed those of Baruch Gur, director of the Agency's East European unit. According to Gur, young people are anxious for aliyah because "education in the former Soviet Union is collapsing" and "parents have too much to lose by moving."

However, the Agency has also come up with incentives for families to leave. One of them involves flying Israeli business owners to 150 cities in the former Soviet Union to recruit workers.

Employment situation improving

"They are interviewed by their employers and hired on the spot," said Kaplan.

The agency hopes to ensure employment for 20,000 olim before they set foot in Israel.

The employment situation for Russian immigrants to Israel is improving but not yet ideal, said Kaplan. Agency tracking shows that 75 to 80 per cent of them are working, but the majority are not employed in their original profession.

The agency is counting on the peace process to propel job creation. Kaplan envisions a tourism training centre in Eilat for students from the entire Middle East.

"Eilat has more hotels than Tel Aviv," he said.

Kaplan praised UJA fundraising efforts in Toronto, which rank among the world's most successful.

His speech kicked off the UJA countdown toward this year's $40-million dollar target. So far, $33 million has been raised.

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Doctors, hospital administrations deal with scarce health resources

By PAUL LUNGEN

TORONTO — "Dr. W" has two patients. One is terminally ill with inoperable cancer. The other is in shock with a critical heart disorder. The hospital where Dr. W works does not have sufficient resources to treat both patients and the doctor must decide how best to allocate what resources he does have. What should he do?

In another case, a young postgraduate medical student has appeared at a clinic requesting her fourth abortion in under two years. What should the clinic do?

In situation number three, a young man shoots up drugs every day, resulting in an infection to a heart valve. Surgeons have replaced it and told him that if he does not end his drug habit, it will further damage his heart. Months later he returns with the same problem. What should the doctors do?

These are the kinds of difficult situations doctors confront on a daily basis, an audience at the Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue was told recently.

Three speakers, a doctor and hospital administrator, an ethicist and a professor of medicine who writes on Jewish medical ethics, addressed the problem of health care rationing in the Third Annual Dr. Joseph Weil Memorial Lecture of the Toronto Friends of Laniado Hospital. The Laniado Hospital in Netanya, Israel, is a public health facility dedicated to providing community services in conformity with halachah.

In introducing the lecture, Rabbi Mark Dratch pointed out that in the Torah, G-d is referred to as a healer and that under Jewish law, medical treatment is an act of imitating G-d.

But while G-d is infinite, mankind has limited resources and the question oftens arises of who will benefit from those resources, he said.

Dr. Bernard Goldman, director of cardiovascular surgery at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, said "the fact is, we do ration health care in this province."

While the Canadian Health Act guarantees universal access, the Ontario Ministry of Health is not increasing allocations despite rising costs, Goldman said. This leads to the rationing of services, often accomplished by making people "wait in line" for treatment, he said.

Goldman said after news reports of cardiac patients dying while awaiting surgery in the late '80s, a prioritizing system based on objective criteria was developed to determine which patients required immediate surgery and which could wait longer.

Goldman said "surgical triage" is a constant feature of the health care system and doctors weigh the risks of surgery with the possible benefits. He cited the case of heavy drug users with heart problems, rare in Canada but common in the United States, who were refused treatment because resources could be allocated to those who have a better chance of surviving.

Dr. Abbyann Lynch, director of the department of bioethics at the Hospital for Sick Children, said at its deepest level, the problem of health care rationing is an ethical issue, not simply a financial or political one.

She said the public must help determine the priorities of the medical system, something it is becoming more apt to do.

Lynch posited the view that Canada's medical system should be based on the values of "a caring community, protecting the weakest members and helping the poorest." Her vision, she continued, is based on one where individuals have duties, not just rights, and people ask what they owe each other.

Dr. Fred Rosner, director of the department of medicine at Mount Sinai Services, Queen's Hospital in New York, said Talmudic sources differ on the questions of equal treatment of individuals. While some sources say that no one's blood is redder than another's and that everyone should be treated equally, other sections distinguish between classes of people.

Society has obligations to all its citizens and doctors should treat all their patients equally, he said. But a family member can do whatever he or she must to seek the best treatment for their family member.

Quoting Maimonides, a physician who wrote extensively on medicine and halacha, Rosner said people are obliged to look after their own health and take preventive medical measures like eating the right food and exercising.

THE UJA CAMPAIGNER

The Cohen family, it seems, is genetically connected to Jewish commitment.

Robert Cohen is a 20 year **UJA** campaign veteran. His father was a founding member of Toronto's Shaarei Tefillah Congregation. His wife Marilyn is a tireless worker in the Women's Campaign. Both his daughters have held high elected positions with United Synagogue Youth.

"I guess," Robert says, "it's in our blood."

For Bob Cohen, **UJA** has become habit forming. He tinkered with **UJA** involvement for several years before becoming a lawyer in 1972. Now he's addicted, and he's determined to turn others on as well. Robert thinks participation in **UJA** is an easy sell.

"People enjoy associating themselves with successful organizations like **UJA**," he believes.

Robert has canvassed during the Yom Kippur War and the war in Lebanon; during Operation Exodus and Operation Solomon; when peace was a distant dream, and now, when it is within reach. He has discovered one constant catalyst for giving - the need to rescue Jews in distress anywhere in the world.

Robert Cohen

"The spirit of Operation Exodus lives on. People are very committed to saving fellow Jews."

However, Robert is also a big believer in large local allocations, partly because economic conditions are difficult, and partly because "if you have a strong Diaspora, you will have a stronger Israel."

After Robert's two decades of service, including a stint as chairman of the Lawyer's Division, you might think boredom would be setting in by now. But that, he declares emphatically, is not the nature of **UJA**.

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Organizations and People

Rabbinical leaders told to keep up with the times

By LEILA SPEISMAN

TORONTO — The Jew today needs a rabbinate different in function, education and authority from the traditional, medieval style of rabbi, in order to face the realities of the modern age, asserts Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

"One of the main sources of divisiveness between Israel and the Diaspora is the absence of the modern rabbinate there," he told a gathering at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue recently.

Rabbi Schorsch was speaking at a memorial program to mark the tenth yahrzeit of the synagogue's former rabbi, Albert Pappenheim.

In Israel, he said, nearly 50 per cent of Jews define themselves as secular, as opposed to only 20 per cent who do so in the United States.

That is because there is no religious alternative to counterbalance the medieval-style rabbinate that has "triumphed" in Israel, the rabbi said.

"The Mi Yehudi (Who is a Jew) issue was not a fight over conversion; it was a fight over who did the conversion."

With the dramatic change in the position of the Jew after emancipation, a new rabbinic leadership developed, "a political movement that invited Jews from the periphery of society to the centre."

While this change benefitted the individual Jew, he said, the religious Jewish community had to pay a price.

Rabbi Ismar Schorsch

In the medieval world, the community exercised a strong influence over the individual Jew. Now, he could be as unobservant as he wished. Judaism was now merely a religion, rather than an ethnic minority. The synagogue became the dominant, and most visible institution in religious life, the only place where Jews experienced their Judaism. "The synagogue became only a place to daven," Rabbi Schorsch said.

As well, he said, in medieval times, people knew how to daven, and prayers were led by a *shaliach tzibbur*, a person who basically just kept order in the davening.

"Now, the bimah was moved up front, the rabbi and cantor officiated and the people listened."

To offset these changes, he explained, the modern rabbi emerged, at least in western Europe. His functions were very different from those of the medieval rabbi.

The modern rabbi, Rabbi Schorsch said, taught the young (the traditional rabbi taught the most advanced students), and preached on a weekly basis to a congregation that didn't necessarily share his beliefs, values and commitment.

He became an advocate for Judaism, both in the synagogue, where he "fought for the souls of the congregation," and to the outside world, where "Judaism needed to be protected against the slurs of those who felt they (Jews)were not worthy of inclusion."

The new rabbi officiated at services and acted as a pastor, visiting the sick, comforting the mourner.

The traditional yeshiva could not train this new rabbi, so new, modern rabbinical seminaries arose, led by the Breslau Seminary, founded in Eastern Germany in 1854. This new institution gave a credible, dependable smicha, which was important in the newly mobile Jewish society.

The curriculum changed too, adding to Talmudic study such subjects as Jewish literature, poetry, philosophy, history, Bible, and even Hellenistic writers. "If the rabbi was to speak with authority, he had to knew more than the Shulchan Aruch, he had to know where the Jewish experience came from."

As well, the modern seminary gave professional training. "It taught the modern rabbi how to teach, preach and minister."

In Eastern Europe, the rabbi said, emancipation for the Jews did not come until the Russian Revolution of 1917. Accordingly, there were no modern religious movements for the rabbis to deal with.

Much anxiety to new ideas

In fact, he said, there was much anxiety and hostility to the new ideas percolating from the west.

The yeshiva established in Volozin was the first "national" yeshiva in the eastern world, the first yeshiva that raised money from Jews all over the Russian Empire and attracted students from there as well.

"It was anti-western, anti-chassidic; determined to resist the inroads of modernity."

It rejected secular study entirely, he said, noting that it was this very issue that closed the yeshiva in 1892.

"It didn't even countenance the study of the language of the land in which it was situated, let alone its history and culture."

Study, specifically of Talmud for its own sake, became the ideal, a way of coming closer to God, with secular study or the teaching of a way to earn a living seen as "contamination."

When a modern Orthodox yeshiva in Berlin, the Hildesheimer yeshiva, wanted to move to Palestine after the Nazis rose to power, the Agudah rose in arms to prevent it.

In fact, Rabbi Schorsch said, when Bar-Ilan University, an institution founded in the spirit of modern Orthodoxy, opened in 1951, "Agudah insisted the founders sign a document not to open a modern religious school."

"As long as Jewish studies are ensconced in universities, they are no threat to the Orthodox rabbinate," he said. That is why the Conservative effort to create a modern religious school in Israel is so important, Rabbi Schorsch said — "It is the first attempt to create a modern rabbinate there."

Without a modern rabbinate in Israel, Rabbi Schorsch said, "we will not have religious leadership that can build bridges, confront the challenges of modernity and...be a source to bring Jews back to their roots."

Chanukah time at the JCC

TORONTO — Chanukah is coming to the northern branch of the Jewish Community Centre (JCC) with songs, dancing, and magic.

The event, billed as a Chanukah extravaganza show, will be held in the new gym, Dec. 12, from 11:30 - 3 p.m.

Helena and Her Magical Basket and Helena's Friends will create a world of music and fantasy for children of all ages.

After a family fitness walk, enjoy lunch in the new gym, featuring bagels and cream cheese and, of course, latkes and soufganiot (jelly doughnuts). Pretzels, potato chips and lollipops, popcorn and candy floss will round out the menu.

Each child will get a dreidel, chocolate Chanukah gelt and a loot bag, there will be door prizes galore and wandering clowns will be handing out balloons.

A children's talent show, featuring the JCC northern branch's dance, music and fitness departments will top off the day.

Tickets are on sale in advance at the JCC front desk, or on the day of the event. For more information, call Rosanne, 631-5658.

Beit Halochem Canada Recognizes Supporters

Alex Eisen, Chairman of Fundraising, makes a presentation to the Executive of Steeles Memorial Chapel, in thanks for their support of the campaign to equip the new Rehabilitation Centre for Israeli disabled veterans being built in Jerusalem. (l. to r.) Nat Green, Ken Bodenstein, Mike Rogow, Alex Eisen, Marvin Lister, Wilf Kideckel, Henry Lederman.

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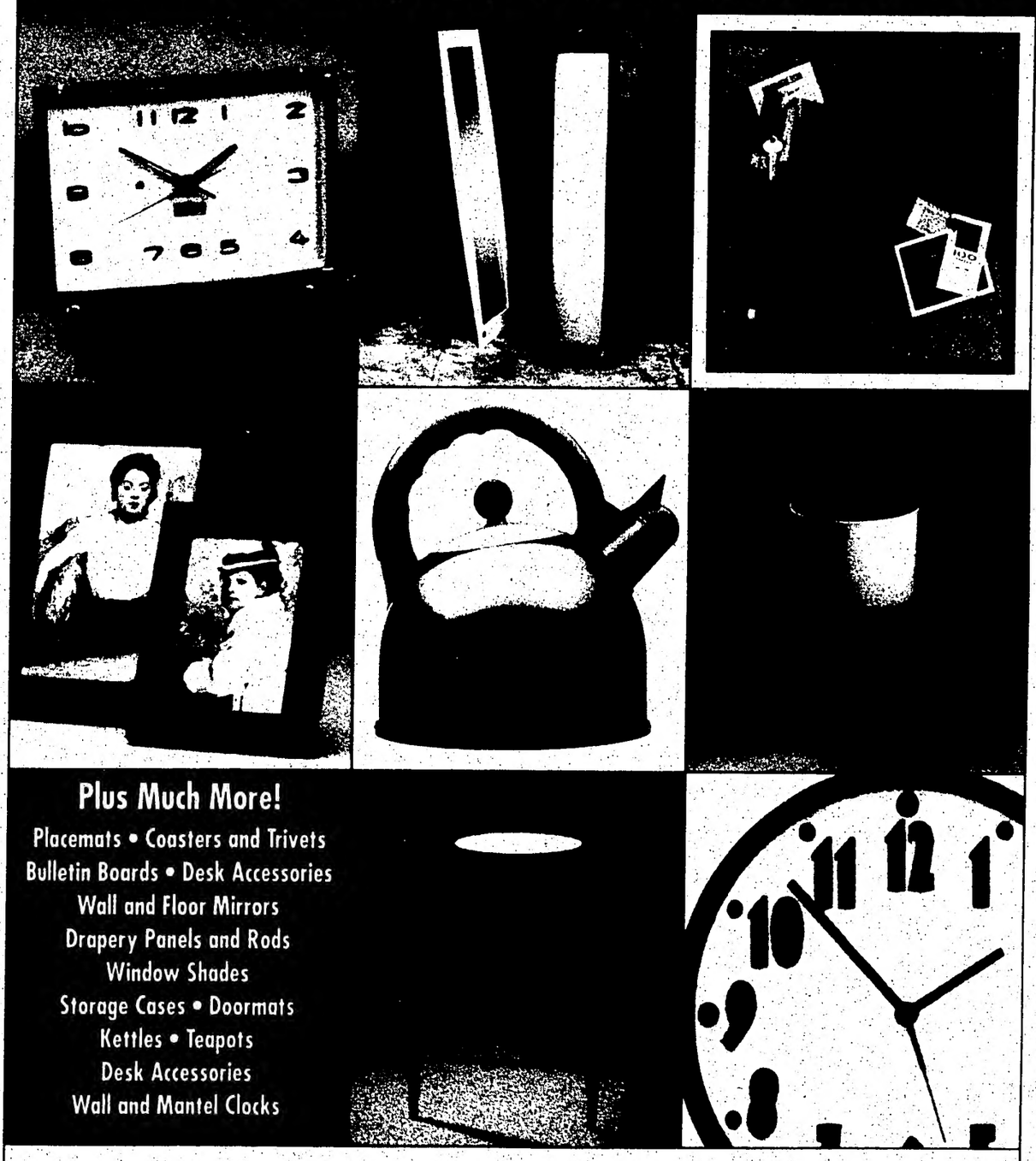

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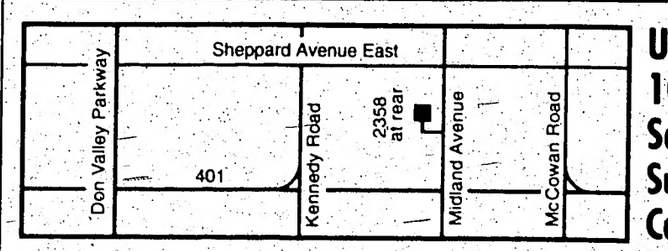

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UMBRA

Professor opens door on world of 'ejis'

By BEN ROSE

TORONTO —A Toronto Jewish professor whose refugee parents used to put up a Christmas tree says he now strictly observes Shabbat, but does not keep kosher "because I like shrimp too much."

Describing himself as an "eji", an acronym for an embarrassed Jewish individual, University of Toronto anthropology professor Ivan Kalmar told a Jewish Book Fair audience recently that many of the world's most creative Jews were or are like him.

Among those Kalmar described as ejis are Albert Einstein, Sigmund Freud, Sarah Bernhardt, Leon Trotsky and Woody Allen. His theory is laid out in a recent book titled *The Trotskys, Freuds and Woody Allens: Portrait of a Culture*.

It is dedicated to the memory of his grandparents, Max and Alzbeta Kalmar, and the hundreds of other victims buried in a mass grave at Kremnicka, Slovakia, under three giant crosses with nothing to tell the world that most of them were Jews.

"I'm not Orthodox, but I've become a little more religious," Kalmar said. "Writing this book was the ultimate step because I was afraid to tell my colleagues I was writing a book about Jews since my field of study has been the Inuit of the Arctic."

He said gentile intellectuals liked Allen's comedy "until he got into trouble lately." Allen's trouble, Kalmar said, resulted from his need to break away from the stereotype of the Jewish man as a good husband who never drinks and never beats his wife.

When a woman reprimanded him for talking only about Jewish men and never mentioning women, he said: "The way the Jewish male deals with his insecurities at the expense of the Jewish woman is a subject I need a longer time to consider."

JEWISH BOOK FAIR

See stories pages 22, 26

Kalmar's main thesis is that people like Trotsky and Freud, while not denying their Jewishness, didn't want the world to consider Jews as different. He calls it "Shylock's defence."

He considers himself an eji but said, "I'm not as eji as I used to be." When asked about the future of ejis, he said, "I'm too eji to talk about it yet."

Kalmar said he dislikes it when non-Jews wish him Merry Christmas or when they put Happy Chanukah signs alongside Christmas ones. At the same time, he said he hopes the practice of putting "Chanukah bushes" in Jewish homes will end.

The author ran into heavy weather when a few argued that many creative Jews were religious. Even in the midst of the Russian revolution of 1917, one woman said, Jewish members of the Soviet cabinet took time out for daily prayers.

Differing with Kalmar's contention that Jews want to be similar to others, one man ridiculed the author's claim that Einstein turned down the presidency of Israel because he was an eji. "Does this mean Einstein wanted the job to go to a gentile?" he asked.

The speaker was introduced by Gilda Grossman of Toronto Women's ORT, which sponsored the event.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

Several hundred people signed in with their personal wishes and prayers for peace at a Multifaith Peace Pavilion set up at the University of Toronto on Remembrance Day, Nov. 11. The pavilion, set up just outside University College, was co-sponsored by the university's Jewish Student Union and Campus Chaplain's Association.

Rae to help light Queen's Park menorah

TORONTO — Canada's largest menorah — Jewish ceremonial candelabra — will be lit in front of Queens Park on Dec. 8, 5:30 p.m.

It will be graced with the participation of Bob Rae, Premier of Ontario. This event will offer the Premier the opportunity to bring Chanukah gretings to the entire Jewish community. Leading rabbis and community leaders will also participate in the program, and the "Cheder Chabad" Children's Choir will entertain the assembly.

In addition to the special ceremony on Wednesday, marking the first night of Chanukah, the candelabra will be lit each evening with an additional light, for the duration of the festival, December 8-15.

The giant candelabra is one of ten large menorahs which are erected in Metropolitan Toronto by the Chabad Lubavitch organization to promote an awareness and appreciation of the Chanukah festival.

After the outdoor ceremony the assembled guests are invited to attend a reception which will be held in the main Legislative Building, where refreshments will be served. In keeping with tradition, latkes (fried potato pancakes) will also be served to emphasize the miracle concerning the small jug of pure oil which miraculously lit the Temple menorah for eight days.

The public is invited to attend.

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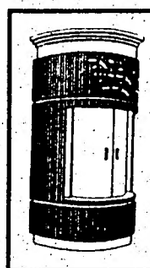

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Organizations and People

B'nai Brith urges more education to combat racism

By PAUL LUNGEN

TORONTO — Hate group recruitment in Ontario schools is merely "the tip of the iceberg" of racist activities, a provincial Royal Commission on Learning was told recently.

In Toronto and surrounding communities, overt racist slurs and incidents are readily visible, but the question of systemic bias in the education system must also be addressed, said Rochelle Wilner, Ontario chair of the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada.

Racist groups exist in a climate that is hospitable to them and which emboldens them, said Karen Mock, national director of the League. Schools must counter that atmosphere by providing more anti-racist education, including programs that study the Holocaust, and by a more inclusive curriculum that examines the roles and histories of minority groups in Canada, she said.

Wilner and Mock were speaking to a recently-constituted commission on learning, whose mandate is to conduct a far-ranging study of the Ontario education system.

The League advocates extensive multicultural, anti-racist, human rights education at every level of the education system, from the classroom to the training of teachers and principals, Mock said. "This is not a frill" that should be dropped over budgetary concerns, she added.

Mock said the League receives daily calls from educators across the province troubled by racist recruitment and by students' increasing use of the rhetoric of white supremacists.

The League has also been asked by educators to help "turn around" young people who have bought in to the world view of racist groups, she said. Teachers often do not know how to tackle that thorny problem, she said, adding that more work has to be done to train them in ways of nipping the problem in the bud.

"At the present time, Ontario is the focus of the greatest recruiting activity in schools," Wilner said. "Now that they are really in one's own backyard, principals and teachers are facing the urgent need for effective practical solutions. The recent unfortunate upsurge in violent action on the part of anti-racist demonstrators, caused by increasing frustration at the slow pace of government action, underscores the need for immediate measures by government and law enforcement agencies to curb hate group activity.

"We believe the education system has a most important role to play," she added.

Mock said the League will submit a detailed written brief to the commission in January.

Community at a crossroads

Acculturation causing numerous changes

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN

TORONTO — The Jewish community is at an historic crossroad and it will have to choose one of two paths says a professor of sociology at University of Toronto.

"The two choices we have are inertia, which will mean a smaller, yet vibrant Jewish community or change which means a larger, liberal and also vibrant community," says Robert Brym.

Brym, co-editor of *The Jews of Canada* spoke in a panel discussion at the recent Jewish Book Fair. Also on the panel were co-editors, William Shaffir, Jay Brodbar and Leo Davids.

He said that if we choose the path of inertia, we would be implying that we are abandoning liberal and marginal Jews to assimilation. What we would end up with is a community, smaller by 50 per cent, 50 per cent of which would be Orthodox or ultra-Orthodox. "Liberal and marginal Jews are educated and cosmopolitan and we could get them involved in the community if we took a Jewish stand on many social issues."

He said that a strong, positive position on community day care could result in an increase in the Jewish population. "Liberal Jewish mothers, who are typically more educated career women, might decide to have more children if they have access to a good day care system."

Brym said that assimilation exists because "Jews are a highly educated ethnic group. Because of this, many social boundaries have broken down. Jews are socially cohesive but they have entered a new and accepting world."

Shaffir said that it is acculturation, not assimilation that is changing the Jewish community. "Acculturation means that a group takes on the culture of a larger group but does not identify with it. Jews have the goals of mainstream culture but they identify themselves as Jews."

He said that anti-Semitism, although a relevant issue for most Jews, is no longer a force that can assure cohesion within the community. "The community has to listen to the concerns of those either estranged or becoming estranged. The community must come to terms with various kinds of changes."

Brodbar agreed that an important issue is how to maintain and enhance community life so that it is compelling enough to keep people involved.

Davids said that from the 1991 census it is clear that rather than having a national community, Canadian Jewry is broken down into a few dynamic centres while other areas in the country are weakening. "There is now a recognition of the need to change our priorities towards a cultural rescue of the marginal Jews. Talking about the future is a matter of the future being made to happen because of actions. I hope we choose the right actions for a vibrant Jewish future."

JSF employee fired

TORONTO — Menahem Neuer, 26, program director of York University's Jewish Student Federation (JSF) for the past four years, was dismissed from the organization last week. "There was a breach of confidentiality," JSF executive Claire Sookman alleged to *The CJN*, when asked the reason for Neuer's sudden departure.

Neuer, a Montrealer, who graduated from Concordia University with a degree in history before moving to Toronto, said, "It wasn't a breach of confidentiality from my perspective." He says he left the JSF on "amiable" terms. "My feelings are positive towards the organization and the community."

Jim Adessky, chair of the JSF board, echoed Sookman's comments, declining to elaborate on them. — F.K.

SINGLES EVENTS

Singles events is an advertising feature of The Canadian Jewish News. **Deadline is Monday, 5:00 p.m. , 10 days preceding issue date.** For rates or to place an ad,please call Joe at 422-2528.

The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they might have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

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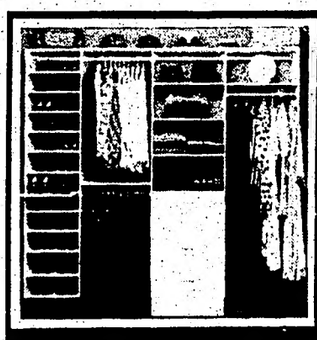
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Halifax Conservative shul celebrates 40th anniversary

By JOEL JACOBSON

HALIFAX — To some it seems like an eternity, to others a mere blip in time.

But it has been 40 years since 33 Halifax-Dartmouth families broke away from the Orthodox Baron De Hirsch Congregation to start a conservative syngogue.

The split began when Conservative Rabbi Stanley Kessler was hired by the Orthodox synagogue to bring dynamism to the traditional congregation. His enthusiasm convinced one segment that there was a more modern way to practise Judiasm.

"Most of the desire to move away from Orthodox hinged on seating," said Earle Bowman, a longtime member of the Baron De Hirsch Congregation. "The group that wanted to move wanted mixed seating."

That group founded Shaar Shalom Synagogue. According to synagoge president Lloyd Newman, "The Robie Street (Baron De Hirsch) Shule seemed dominated by a clique that allowed no change or modernization."

Charter member Sophie Stern agrees with that assessment. "We wanted something more modern in our services," she said.

And thus was born a Conservative congregation that saw its membership grow to 100 families within a very few years. Today, it stands at more than 200 families with more than 80 children attending an afternoon Hebrew school.

With her late husband Louis, Stern opened her home to the first Shaar Shalom Hebrew school and the first gift shop. The wife of the first rabbi, David Jacobs, taught Hebrew at the Sterns. "I taught Zipporah how to bake," laughed Stern.

"For three months, we held classes in our basement for 40 kids each week. We held some services at Dalhousie University, the Jewish hostel and even at a hotel downtown," she said.

Noah Heinish, Nathan Green and Robert Kanissberg were the driving forces behind Shaar Shalom. Against opposition from members of Halifax City Council, they negotiated land for a building.

Alan Stern, a past president of Shaar Shalom, was a young teen in 1953. He remembers his parents talking about the negotiations with city aldermen.

"One alderman objected to the use of the [closed] Quinpool Road School grounds for our shul. And he tried to sway his peers, but a strong lobby convinced the other alderman the site would be suitable," Stern said. "That one alderman was henceforth regarded as an enemy by many of our congregants. We felt it was pure anti-Semitism."

Two years after the split from the Baron De Hirsch, on Oct. 31, 1955, Shaar Shalom opened the doors to a modern building at the corner of Oxford and Pepperell streets in midtown Halifax.

The synagogue was only a few blocks from where the Baron De Hirsch would complete a new building two years later, to be called the Beth Israel Synagogue of the Baron de Hirsch Congregation. The Orthodox congregation was building "in order to survive," said Bowman, "to hold as many members as we could."

There is still a chill in the air when some members of the two congregations are in the same room. Stern said the coolness is based more in personal relationships than in ideology. "Many family members have not spoken to each other in the 40 years since the split," he said.

There was no chill at the Shaar Shalom's 40th anniversary celebrations last month, which many members of Beth Israel Synagogue attended. Community activites receive excellent support from both shuls, and there has been talk of combining the two Hebrew schools.

Through the years, Shaar Shalom has changed rabbis and held spirited discussions about observance of customs and interpretation of law. Today, the synagogue has a part-time woman rabbi, the first female rabbi in Atlantic Canada.

It also has a heritage of the original 33 member families, many of whom are still members today. The Irving Perlins, James Hammerlings, Peter Herschorns, Scotty Newmans and Julius Silvermans are but a few of those who believed in change and broke away from the traditional to the modern.

"We are grateful to have so many of (the original members) with us today, alive and determined to see Shaar Shalom prosper," said Newman in an address to the congregation at the 40th anniversary celebrations.

"We owe it to them, to make sure this building, with its ideas and developed practices, has the will and spirit and wherewithal to thrive and to continue to survive and prosper."

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Hadassah-WIZO honors Lucow

VICTORIA — The West Coast editorial representative of *The Canadian Jewish News*, Maurice Lucow, has been honored by Hadassah-WIZO of Canada "for excellence in journalism."

The organization presented a cheque for $500 in Lucow's name as a one-time grant to the University of Victoria (UVic) Creative Writing department. The money is to be used as a prize for a student who writes the best feature story, published or unpublished, by the end of April. Department heads will judge the contest.

Hadassah-WIZO contributed eight grants honoring journalists across Canada to mark the 75th anniversary of the organization.

Lucow's name was submitted to the national office by the Victoria and Today's Woman chapters of the local Hadassah-WIZO organization, which has some 200 members. Presentation of the cheque to the university and a plaque to Lucow were made at a reception sponsored by the two chapters at the Jewish Community Centre.

The cheque was presented to Prof. David Godfrey of UVic by Bernice Packford. Diana Shnider introduced Lucow, and the presentation to him was made by Ruth Cooperstock. Stephanie Gilbert chaired the event.

Letters of congratulations were read to Lucow from Hadassah-WIZO national president Esther Matlow and from Sophie Kettner, 75th anniversary chair. A fax was received from Israel from Lily Frank, the national executive vice-president, who said that "your wisdom, great experience, professionalism and sense and aim for excellence are greatly admired . . . We are proud to be associated with you."

Ruth Coopersmith presents Hadassah-WIZO plaque to Maurice Lucow. [Adele Vernon photo]

Lucow, former editor of *The Canadian Jewish News* until he left for part-time retirement in Victoria in 1989, recalled that one of his first assignments as a cub reporter with the *Winnipeg Free Press*, where he broke into the news business, was to cover the annual Youth Aliyah give-or-get dinner before World War II. At the time, Hadassah members had to raise or donate $25 to attend the dinner, which was the big social event of the year "and, of course, helped the kids who were escaping from the Nazis."

Now, he said, "as you celebrate your 75th anniversary, your members are still hard at work raising funds for Youth Aliyah and for the many health, educational and social services you fund in Israel. It's been gratifying to note also that Hadassah has devoted some of its funds to Canadian causes. This year's project to honor newspeople is a good example of one of your general community endeavors. It recognizes the importance of media people and the need to help train new ones for the future."

Lucow said when he started in the newspaper business, there were no journalism schools in Winnipeg and "we learned on the job." He said he was impressed that the new crop of journalists have learned so many other skills besides reporting — computer technology, libel laws, investigative reporting, publishing procedures and practices and other useful practices "which we sometimes didn't learn too well."

Because of the computer, a reporter or journalist is virtually a one-person publishing house now and "if graduates have trouble finding jobs in the very tight publishing market, they can start out as freelancers and with luck and hard work do pretty well financially."

Lucow was editor of *The Canadian Jewish News* from 1980, coming there after 10 years as public relations director of the Toronto Jewish Congress-UJA (now the Federation). Prior to that, he was a *Maclean Hunter* editor for over 15 years.

He covers most of British Columbia from Victoria, via fax and phone and with frequent trips to Vancouver.

Georgian-born oleh wins armwrestling championship

EDMONTON — A Georgian-born oleh captured top prize for Israel in the 110 kg category at the recently concluded World Armwrestling Championships in Edmonton, Alta.

Twenty-five year-old Eli Sapiashvili, who was born in the former Soviet republic, won the title in the right-handed division.

He led a contingent of 14 Israeli armwrestlers to the international event. A total of 254 male and female competitors from 20 countries participated in 32 events at the competition.

Israel's team captain, Shai Ben-Shahar, finished third in the over-110 kg left-handed division.

The Israeli team represents the cream of the crop among the 2,500-member Israeli Armwrestling Federation. With little government funding, most of the Israeli team members paid for their own travel expenses.

While in Edmonton, the team attended Shabbat services, visited with Young Judaea members and made a presentation to the Edmonton Jewish community at a United Jewish Appeal function.

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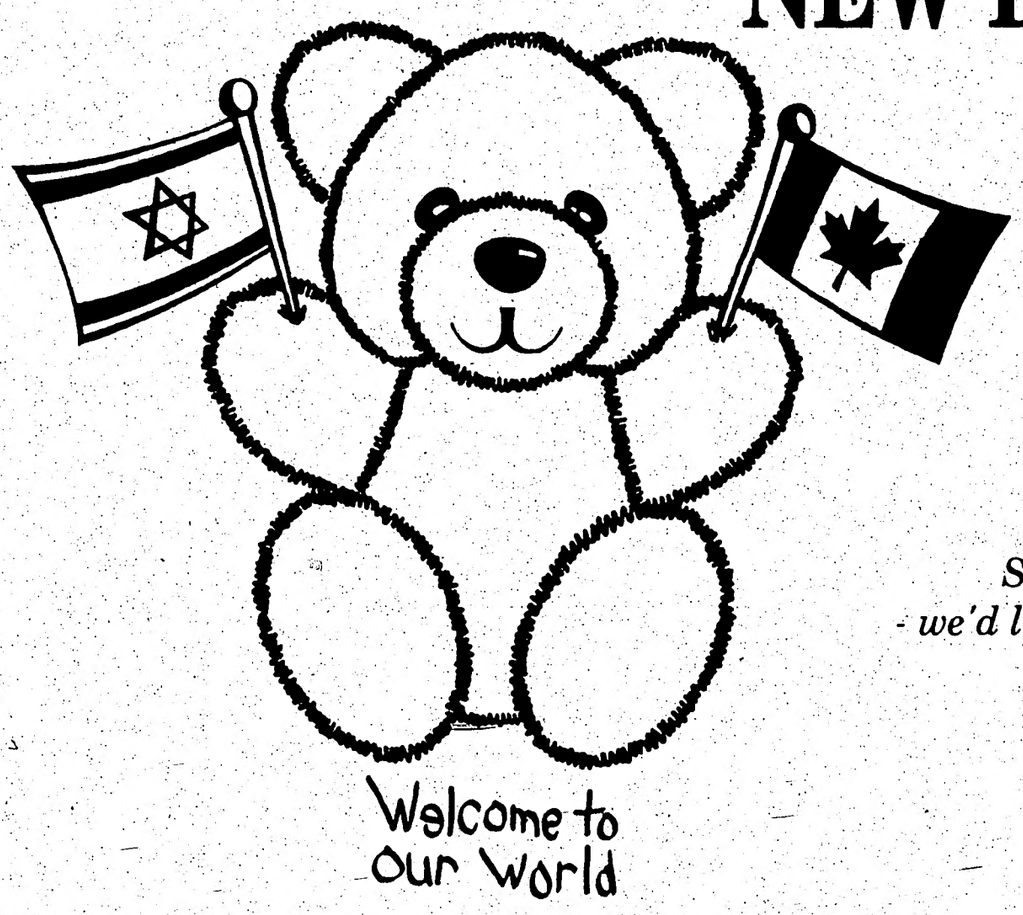

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Organizations and People

G-d has sole right to control life, says halachic scholar

By LEILA SPEISMAN

TORONTO — G-d gives life, and it is only He who can take it away, a prominent bioethicist and halachic scholar asserted recently.

Rabbi Moshe Tendler is rosh yeshiva of Yeshiva University's Rabbi Issaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS), professor of Talmud, and professor and chair of biology and professor of medical ethics at Yeshiva University, and deeply involved in several rabbinic and national bioethics committees.

He spoke recently at a program sponsored by the Association of Jewish Chaplains of Ontario in memory of its founding president, Rabbi Sheldon Steinberg. The event was held at Shaarei Tefillah Congregation.

"People like Dr. [Jack] Kevorkian and [Sue] Rodrigues (the British Columbia woman trying to get legal permission for assisted suicide) are trying to play G-d. We don't."

The problem is, he said, that Jews listen to what the secular world has to say, rather than what the Torah instructs.

The Torah, he said, speaks firmly on issues of medical ethics. It says that it is not your right to receive medical care; it is others' obligation to give it.

"You may endanger my life and my children's lives [refering to medical personnel caring for AIDS patients, for instance], or I may hate you, but it's still my obligation."

Rabbi Moshe Tendler

If you are injured, you must be made well. It makes no difference if it appears that, for instance, your carelessness caused a car accident. "What really happened is that for that one split second G-d turned his face away from you," the rabbi said.

"It is a mitzvah to heal, and we must heal, even if there is a risk, even if it costs money. That's why we pay taxes, so others can be healed."

Rabbi Tendler slammed those who say people have the right to end their life if life is not worth living. "There is no equivocation. Suicide is murder. Don't blur the truth. Don't ask me to help you commit murder."

He also disagrees with those who use the term "death with dignity" to refer to assisted suicide.

"Death with dignity means death after a dignified life, surrounded by dignified people."

There is absolutely no justification according to Torah, Rabbi Tendler said, for removing nutrition from a dying person. "It doesn't matter what the intent is [having pity, or ending a painful existence]; the result is what counts."

A person may request, in the so-called living will, not to be resuscitated, (noting that the decision must be made in consultation with a rabbi).

"The issue is," he said, "who decides on quality of life. We all know someone who decided that only people with blue eyes and blond hair had a quality of life."

The Torah, he said, even deals with that most modern of problems, the patient's so-called right to know. "Recent studies, in such prestigious medical journals as *J.A.M.A. (Journal of the American Medical Association)* and *Lancet* have shown a clear connection between the will to live and an optimistic outlook.

"Fear and depression are partners with the angel of death. The Torah says we can lie to save lives."

If the patient himself pleads for it, he said, one can abstain from intervening in their care to lengthen life. Thus, he said, while it is true that Rodrigues is not permitted by Halachah to shorten her life, there is no necessity for prolonging it artifically either.

Parents' loving relationship best gift for children: author

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN

TORONTO — A loving relationship between parents is the best gift a child can get according to an expert on family matters.

"What is best for children, is that their parents stay in love," Ellen Kreidman, author of *How Can We Light a Fire When the Kids are Driving us Crazy*, said at a recent Jewish Book Fair lecture. She spoke along with Jay Teitel, author of *From Here to Paternity: An Intimate View of a Father's Day*.

Kreidman, who included in her book, 51 ways that parents can remain lovers despite having a house full of children, says that after a day apart, couples should greet each other with a 10-second kiss. "A greeting sets the mood for the rest of the night. A good sized kiss sets the right mood."

Also in the book is a lover's program which states that parents should spend one evening a week, one overnight every three months and one week every year, without the children. "Parents have to go back to being lovers and spending quality time together is essential. No matter what you do, your children will be gone one day and you will only have each other."

When asked about the guilt that goes along with leaving your children for any length of time, Kreidman said that "we create our own guilt. Learn to overcome it and do it anyway. Look at marriage as a corporation — do what you have to, to make it continue. You have to make your marriage a priority, then everything else makes sense. You should not send out the message that you are putting your relationship no hold because everything else is more important."

Teitel, a freelance journalist and stay-at-home dad, said that when a couple becomes parents, their entire way of thinking changes. "To a non-parent, the word sleep is merely a noun. To a parent, it is the Holy Grail because sleep is the first thing a child steals from you. When you were young and single, driving used to mean freedom, but after having children, it means driving them around. Drunk driving also becomes a much larger issue because now it is a threat to your own child."

He added that when a child says that she is bored, it is a parent's call to arms to find them something to do. "The things that bore them however, are the things we crave. We would love to have nothing to do."

Young parents in the audience agreed with Teitel about how parenting can be exhausting and asked Kreidman how to act like lovers when they are always so tired. "Tired is mental and not physical. When you tell your husband you are too tired, what you are really saying is that it is just him. Chances are if an old friend dropped by after you have dropped into bed, too tired to move, you would jump up and feel revitalized. The message you send to your husband has to be different."

Parenting not exclusive role of women, JF&CS panel told

TORONTO — North America has to get down to the social work of creating a human environment where people can be people together says the former executive director of Jewish Family and Child Service.

Jerome Diamond was responding to a recent panel discussion entitled Families Ties, made possible through the Dora Wilensky Salsberg Endowment Fund to honor the 125th anniversary of Jewish Family and Child Service. Members of the panel included Olga Silverstein, a family therapist in New York; Marianne Walters, director, Family Therapy Institute, Washington, D.C.; and Gordon Wolfe, executive director, JF&CS. Moderator was CFRB commentator, Andy Barrie.

Silverstein said that with regards to raising children, she hopes that in time the operative word will be parent, not mother or father. "Parenting can be done by the male or female, whoever has the child's best interests at heart. If we say that women cannot raise boys then we are disempowering them and making assumptions based on old ideas of what masculinity means."

She said that the ideal is to have both parents raising children but hundreds of thousands of women are raising children alone and they can raise boys competently and confidently. "Women not only can, but must raise boys alone."

In response to an audience question of how we can raise children to see each other equally, Silverstein said that the current generation of men has not been raised to do household tasks. "Men are willing to help but by definition, they are helping the woman do her job."

Wolfe said that men must move towards not asking how they can help but rather how they can change their responsibilities. "We need to move towards an equal kind of relationship. Men have to talk to men about it and look at how things can change.

Walters, the mother of three daughters, said that the stereotype of the Jewish mother and the daughter who is seen as a Jewish American Princess are "images that endear as they repel, making them even more dangerous. They are stereotypes that everyone sort of half believes. They are just a joke, but they contain a kernel of truth. These stereotypes serve to devalue women. Neither image is real, and both depend on men for existence. It is the perfect marriage of sexism and anti-Semitism.

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Women urged to strive for equality in Jewish life

By RUTH SCHWEITZER

TORONTO — Jewish women will not enjoy equality in the sexual sphere until they have it in every other area of Jewish life, according to feminist theologian and author Dr. Judith Plaskow.

Delivering the Rita Eisendrath Memorial Lecture recently at Holy Blossom Temple, she said, "I refer not just to women's full participation in religious and communal roles, but to women's equal participation in defining Jewish institutions and communal roles."

In her lecture Giving Up Control: Judaism and Sexuality from a Feminist Perspective, Plaskow emphasized that male dominance in traditional Judaism extends to all areas of women's lives, including their sexuality.

Traditional Jewish marriage and divorce are rooted in and maintain the control of women, she said, pointing out the difficulty some Orthodox women have in obtaining a get, a Jewish divorce, from their husbands.

"Even if we rethink the wedding ceremony, a system in which heterosexual marriage is the only option for women, it is now a primary mechanism for control of a woman's sexuality."

Plaskow added that we can no longer privilege heterosexual marriage as the only legitimate way for women to live.

She took issue with the so-called "liberal" Jewish view on lesbianism, explaining that it shows how women's voices have been ignored when it comes to defining sexuality. "Lesbians don't have sex because in the Talmudic discussion essentially nothing happens between two women. In western culture having sex refers to penetration by a penis."

The erotic, from a feminist perspective, incorporates a spectrum of feelings, including the arousal a woman may feel while nursing a child, the experience of desire in talking deeply with a friend, or a physical feeling of power and energy one might get from standing on a beach looking at the ocean. "We bring these feelings from other places into bed with us, said Plaskow, "and they enliven our sexual lives.

"In pursuing the path of preventing illicit sexual relationships, the rabbis try to cut off erotic feeling at their conception. The feminist question is not how can I control those feelings, but how can I act responsibly on them."

She affirmed the moral power of the erotic, stating that "in response to the suspicion of sexuality and pleasure that still characterizes much of our society, we need to say that pleasure can be holy, that it can enhance our valuing of ourselves and others."

Plaskow noted that for many women sex is the source of pain, disempowerment and danger, with statistics on incest and rape indicating the numbers of people for whom sex is used to violate the self.

The first schooling that many of us get in social and sexual relations, she said, is schooling in domination communicated to us in our family relationships. "Given the ubiquity of the erotization of male dominance in North American culture, it is very easy to take pleasure in dominating and being dominated."

Plaskow maintained that however mutual a relationship between two individuals may be, it is always affected by the larger situation of social inequality, both within and outside the Jewish community.

"Within heterosexual relationships mutuality depends on a man's willingness to relinquish and to continue to relinquish the power that law and social customs give him."

Plaskow is a professor of religious studies at Manhattan College in New York. The author of *Standing Again at Sinai: Judaism from a Feminist Perspective*, she is the co-founder and co-editor of the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*.

Russians enjoy Jewish culture

TORONTO — A Jewish music and cultural evening was recently held at Beth David Synagogue. It was co-sponsored by B'nai Brith Women and Russian integration committee (RIC) of Jewish Women's Federation, and the Community Integration Program (CIP) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto and the Jewish Community Centre of Toronto

Over 130 newly arrived Russians and Sarejevo families and 55 B'nai Brith women enjoyed the musical talents of Fern Dworkin, Israel David, Yuri Tsivtsivadze, and Luba Chalev and Olga Lvovoa.

Helaine Finkelstein, president of B'nai Brith Women of Toronto, brought greetings.

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Organizations and People

Skater preparing for winter Olympics

By PAUL LUNGEN

TORONTO — When figure skater Misha Shmerkin left Odessa, Ukraine to make aliya a few years ago, he said goodbye to his friends, to his hometown and, he thought, to his figure skating career as well.

A nationally-ranked athlete who developed in the Soviet sports system, Shmerkin had resigned himself to a new life in a land without zambonis or rink rats.

"I didn't think I'd skate in Israel," the 23-year-old said in a telephone interview from his home in Kiryat Shmona. "But [then] I heard of Canada Centre and Metulla. . . "

Shmerkin was not in Israel long when he learned the country did have artificial ice surfaces, the largest being in the Canada Centre recreation complex in Metulla. The centre was built with funds provided by the United Israel Appeal of Canada.

Shmerkin approached officials at the centre as well as Metulla Mayor Yossi Goldberg with the idea that an on-ice performance would show them just how good he was and convince them to back his not immodest goal. "I told them I want to go to the Olympics with Israel on my jacket," he said.

For Goldberg, seeing was believing and the Metulla mayor quickly put Canada Centre's resources behind Shmerkin. A string of top finishes in international competitions later vaulted Shmerkin into Olympic contention. His 7th-place finish at the recent SunLife Skate Canada competition attests to the fact that he can compete with the best the world has to offer.

Some say his performance in Ottawa was as impressive as that of the other top skaters, including world champ Kurt Browning of Canada.

Yaakov Schneider, director of Canada Centre, said the word in figure skating circles is that Shmerkin's free skating performance was the best in Ottawa. Artistic impression, showmanship and an outgoing personality on the ice are the young skater's biggest assets, Schneider said.

Asked how he rated his chances in Lillehammer, Shmerkin said a 6th to 10th place finish is a realistic goal. But some extra ammunition in his arsenal could help elevate him to the world's top ranks — he's been practicing a quadruple toe loop that only a few figure skaters in the world can match.

In the months leading up to the Olympics, Shmerkin plans an extensive round of practice and competition. He frequently flies back to Russia to train with one of the country's top coaches, Igor Ksinofontof.

Some of that training has paid off in an impressive list of showings in recent events, including a first place finish at the Sofia Cup in Bulgaria last December and a top finish at the Bratislava Cup in Slovakia earlier this year.

The most memorable moment for Shmerkin came last August at the St. Gervais Cup in France when he again finished first. He said watching the Israeli flag being raised alongside the flags of the United States and Canada while Hatikvah was being played "was the hardest time. Inside me, everything was turning."

Soccer, basketball popular

Despite his success wearing Israel's blue and white, his accomplishments have not yet generated a great deal of excitement in the Jewish state, where soccer and basketball reign supreme. An Israeli TV crew sent to do a film in Metulla were shocked to learn of his achievements. Schneider said it's not yet clear whether Israel TV will send a crew to Norway to cover Shmerkin's skate for a medal.

But the young athlete may soon get recognition beyond the borders of the Jewish state. A crew from CBS has been following Shmerkin to gather film for a special story on the history of the Israeli Olympic movement from Munich to Lillehammer. It likely will air around the same time as the Olympics.

Shmerkin, whose great grandfather was a rabbi in Bessarabia, plans to continue his figure skating career after the Lillehammer games. "I want to work in Canada Centre," he said. "This is a new sport" that needs to be encouraged.

* * *

Israel seems to be developing another world-ranked ice athlete. Sabra skater Kfir Natan, 16, racked up a 27th place finish at the last world junior championships in Seoul, South Korea. Natan, who skates at a rink in Bat Yam, has learned all his skating skills in Israel and may participate in the upcoming world juniors in Colorado Springs next January.

Moral education for children said key to fighting racism

By RUTH SCHWEITZER

TORONTO — If we do not raise our children to think for themselves and to take risks, we could have another Holocaust, said a lecturer at the University of Haifa.

Racelle Weiman delivered a lecture entitled Rethinking the Memory: Lessons of the Holocaust and Implications for Moral Education at the recent Michael Kleinberg Memorial Lecture, hosted by the North York Board of Education and part of the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada's Holocaust and Hope program.

Weiman said the 11,000 Righteous Gentiles thought for themselves and were prepared to risk everything. Some lost their lives and others, she said, lost their reputations, their jobs and their pensions.

"Most of us just want [our children] to be safe and safe doesn't mean risk-taking, putting yourself on the line," Weiman said.

She said recent reports of HIV contamination in the German blood supply, which was untested for the virus because of economic considerations, shows we have yet to learn the lessons of the Holocaust. "In a real post-Holocaust world that could never happen because doctors and technicians would say 'I see something going wrong,' [and] the value of human life would prevent it from happening."

Weiman said this kind of moral education is lacking in schools. "We learn how to read and write, [but] we don't know how to think, we don't know how to make choices, we don't know how to stand up. We don't know how to start working out the ways that we figure that we could make a different world, that we could make a difference."

Weiman, who studied the Holocaust for 12 years, said she teaches the Holocaust because she wants to make the world a better place. She talked to 500 students in North York schools last week.

She proposed that the Holocaust and ethics be taught in all schools, and at all levels, especially to university students who will become the leaders of the future.

Weiman emphasized that Jews ought to learn more about the Righteous Gentiles. Although we are familiar with the names of prominent Nazis, she said, we hardly know any of the names of the Righteous Gentiles.

VICTOR BORGE VISITS

Veteran entertainer Victor Borge, 84, known worldwide for his unique combination of comedy and music, posed with a group of Grade 8 students from Associated Hebrew Schools during a recent visit to Toronto's Jewish Community Centre (JCC).

Borge, who was in town to perform at Roy Thomson Hall, visited the JCC to see the Judy Ellis Glickman photo exhibit commemorating the rescue of Denmark's Jewish community 50 years ago. The subject of one of the photos, the Danish performer, who has made his home in the United States since 1940, is a co-founder of the scholarship fund (Thanks To Scandinavia) which commissioned the exhibit. The display was brought to Toronto by the Holocaust Remembrance Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto. [Alron photo]

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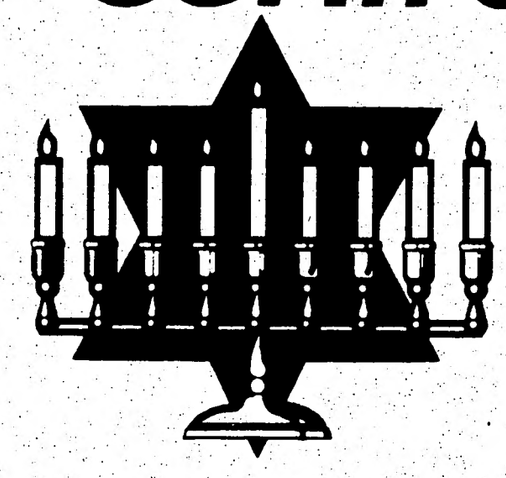

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Organizations and People

What's New

BY MIRIAM HERMAN

DEADLINE REMINDER

Deadline for What's New and About People is Thursday, two weeks prior to publication date. Thursday, Dec. 2, is deadline for Dec. 16 issue, and Thursday, Dec. 9, is deadline for Dec. 23 issue. However, since we are not publishing an issue Dec. 30, all items that would ordinarily appear Dec. 30 must be included in the Dec. 23 column. Please note these other holiday changes— Thursday, Dec. 16, is deadline for Jan. 6 issue, and Wednesday, Dec. 22, is deadline for Jan. 13 column. I am at my desk on deadline days only to receive your calls and sort my mail.

Friday, Dec. 3

HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGES

The Jewish Civil Rights Educational Foundation of Canada presents **Rabbi John Moscowitz** of Holy Blossom Temple speaking on Homosexual Marriages: Should Rabbis Perform Them and Judaism Sanctify Them? at a luncheon at noon at the Park Plaza Hotel. Couvert $20, students $10. Kashruth observed. RSVP to **Flavia**, 416-594-1812.

HAPPY MUSICAL HOUR

Concert pianist **Lola Julitta Burns** will present a wide selection of semi-classical, popular, and dancing music, 2-3 p.m. at Lincoln Place, 429 Walmer Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 4

THE DEMJANJUK CASE

Adath Sholom Synagogue, 864 Sheppard Ave. W., invites the community to hear trial lawyer and vice-chair of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre's Legal Committee **Leo Adler** speak on The Demjanjuk Case and Its Consequences, at 9 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 5

PEACE PROCESS—FEARS & HOPES

At Beth Tzedec Men's Club meeting, Israeli journalist **Samuel Segev** will address the topic Peace Process—Fears and Hopes. Services 9 a.m., breakfast 9:30, lecture at 10. Public is invited. Nominal charge for breakfast.

KINDERTRANSPORT GET-TOGETHER

The Kindertransport Organization of Toronto is holding a get-together at 7 p.m. Anyone who left Germany or Austria after Kristallnacht in a children's transport to England is welcome. Come and meet fellow "kinder." Call **Inge**, 486-1524 or **Liesa**, 497-7086.

NOSH BRUNCH

Aquarius Chapter, B'nai Brith Women of Canada, is holding its annual Nosh Brunch at 11:30 a.m. with guest speaker **Adele Liederman**, entertainment and fabulous food. Couvert $10. Join in and see what BBW/C can do for you and the community. Call **Sara Farajun**, 886-3086 or **Nancy Estien**, 663-7066.

INDOOR SIDEWALK SALE

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Sisterhood's indoor sidewalk sale takes place at the synagogue, 9 a.m. to noon. Sale items include gently used clothing, books, household items.

JEWISH STORYTELLING

Celebrate Chanukah with stories about the holiday and anything else, 7:30 p.m. at Beth Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave. (Bathurst-Glencairn). Open to everyone to listen or tell. Suggested donation $3 at the door. For information, call 699-8914.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN CANADA

Glen Shear, Young Leadership Group, Simon Wiesenthal Centre, will speak on Anti-Semitism in Canada and Europe at the Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood breakfast meeting, following 9 a.m services.

CHANUKAH SALE

At the Holy Blossom Temple Judaica Shop sale you'll find everything you need for Chanukah—menorahs, candles, chocolate coins, Chanukah books, games, crafts, audio and video cassettes, dreidels. Sale runs 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

BASIC JUDAISM COURSE

The Rabbinical Assembly, Ontario Region, continues the Basic Judaism course with the topic Life Cycle, 7:30-9 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue. No charge.

CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

B'nai Brith Women of Canada Shira Chapter-in-formation, for women 25-40 plus, invites prospective members to a Chanukah celebration. If you want to have fun and meet women with similar interests, come out to the pot luck Chanukah brunch plus $5 gift exchange, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. For details, **Eileen Jadd**, 630-9313.

ALMOST-NEW SALE

Adath Sholom Synagogue Sisterhood's almost-new sale featuring clothing and household items runs 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the synagogue, 864 Sheppard Ave. W.

Monday, Dec. 6

NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

Beth Sholom Synagogue invites the community to a lecture on the Demjanjuk case, Nazi War Criminals—Is the Hunting Season Over? Get the Facts on Demjanjuk by trial lawyer **Leo Adler**, vice-chair, Simon Wiesenthal Centre's legal committee, 8 p.m. No charge.

Tuesday, Dec. 7

TORONTO WOMEN'S ORT

The Business and Professional Chapter, Toronto Women's ORT Ladies Night Chanukah Party is at 7:30 p.m. Call ORT, 787-0297 for details.

NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE

Beth Tikvah Sisterhood presents an evening of Questions and Answers About Naturopathic Medicine with **Dr. Verna Hunt**, chiropractor and naturopath speaking on Alternative Methods for Healing, 8 p.m. at the synagogue. Members $3, non-members $5.

BB LODGE LA FRATERNITE

B'nai Brith French Lodge La Fraternite monthly meeting takes place 8 p.m. at 15 Hove St. Proceedings are in French. Call 255-6086.

ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM

Islamic Fundamentalism is the concluding lecture in the Beth Tzedec Beth Midrash program on Israel Today—Conflict and Controversy with **Morton Manilla**, 8 p.m. at the synagogue.

Wednesday, Dec. 8

MENORAH LIGHTING

The Jewish Russian Community Centre is hosting a Chanukah celebration beginning at 6 p.m. with the lighting of a giant menorah in Mel Lastman Square, followed by an indoor reception at 6:30 p.m. at North York City Hall with live music, holiday foods and dancing. Admission is free.

FLYING BULGAR KLEZMER BAND

The Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band will perform at First Canadian Place (north side of King St., between Bay and Yonge) at 8:15 p.m.

SIGNIFICANCE OF CHANUKAH

A two-lecture series with **Morton Manilla** on the theme the Significance of Chanukah in Relationship to Contemporary Jewish History begins 8 p.m. on the topic The Future of Zionism in a Time of Globalization. The second lecture, Wednesday, Dec. 15, 8 p.m. focuses on Globalization and the Peace Process.

LUNCH AND LEARN

Holy Blossom Temple's Lunch and Learn in Retirement Group will be visiting Beth Tzedec Congregation's Dennis Museum for a guided tour of The Heritage of Cecil Roth: His Contribution to Jewish Art and History exhibit, 1 p.m. Refreshments served following exhibit. Call **Deborah Tameanko**, at the temple, 789-3291.

MUSLIM FUNDAMENTALISM

The lecture series on The Politics of the Middle East with **visiting Israeli professor Alexander Bligh**, sponsored by Beth Tikvah Synagogue and Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, concludes with Muslim Fundamentalism in the Middle East, 8 p.m. Public is welcome. Cost is $5. Call 221-3433.

Thursday, Dec. 9

LITTLE SHOPS OF BAYCREST

Before you head off to the mall to do your holiday shopping, you might want to drop by Baycrest Centre for a gigantic sale of new merchandise at The Little Shops of Baycrest, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The main floor will be transformed into a bustling marketplace with nearly 60 shopkeepers selling jewelry, craft items, clothing, stationery, books, food baskets, umbrellas, compact discs and much more. For information, call **Marjorie Butterfield**, 789-7071, ext. 2034.

CHANUKAH HEROINES

Jewish Feminist Community will focus on Chanukah Heroines—"and all the men of Israel followed her" at its Chanukah celebration, 55 Prince Arthur, The Party Room. Schmooze, 7:30 p.m., program 7:45. Bring a Chanukah menorah and candles. Contact **Sandy Wise**, 322-0377.

And What Else Is New...

A GALA CONCERT

The first concert in Holy Blossom Temple's Musical Heritage series 1993/94, Sunday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m. at the temple, consists of two parts: Golden Moments from Yiddish Theatre (1880s-early 1920s), and The World of Yossele Rosenblatt, a dramatization through music of the life of **Cantor Joseph Rosenblatt**, with narration written by **Joseph Levine** and music arranged by **Charles Davidson**.

Concert features **cantors Yehuda Rotner, Ephriam Sapir, Thomas Schwartz, Louis Dan-**

NEW WING

Through the generosity of LZA Seniors Club, a check was presented to Josef Krystal, chair of the Canadian Friends of Kupat Holim, by Harry Weinstock, head of the seniors group. Kupat Holim is helping to build a much needed In-Patient Cardiology Wing at Meir Hospital in Kfar Saba, Israel.

to; cantorial soloist **Anna Tabashnik**; Holy Blossom Temple Singers, Holy Blossom Children's Choir and Temple Sinai Children's Choir (**Ted Labow** director). **Cantor Benjamin Maissner** will conduct. Presented by the temple and The Toronto Council of Hazzanim, a portion of the revenue will provide scholarships at School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College and at Cantor's Institute at the Jewish Theological Seminary. For tickets and information, call the temple, 789-3291.

OHR SOMAYACH HAPPENINGS

Ohr Somayach/JEP: Thornhill offers the following upcoming programs. For information or to register, call 905-886-5730.—

Eight Chapters in Jewish Thought, conducted by **Rabbi Eliezer Breitowitz**, senior lecturer, eight consecutive Mondays, 8:30 p.m. starting Dec. 6, at Ohr Somayach/JEP, 2939 Bathurst St.

The Joy of Talmud, also with **Rabbi Breitowitz**, eight Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m. starting Dec. 7 at Ohr Somayach/JEP Thornhill, 613 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill.

A Little Bit of Magic, a three-part series on marriage with **Rabbi Avram Rothman**, executive director, Monday evenings, Dec. 6, 13 and 20, at 613 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. Cost for series is $35 per couple and is open to first 10 couples registering.

MEDINA THEATRE ENSEMBLE

The Jewish Community Centre Bloor Y branch's Medina Theatre Ensemble presents a new Canadian play by actor/playwright **Irving Hoffman**, directed by **Sylvia Lennick** at the Bloor Y, Sunday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m. followed by a question and answer period with the playwright. Admission is $4 members, $7 non-members. For information, call 924-6211 or 781-1138.

SHABBAT STUDY LUNCHEON

The Beth Tzedec Shabbat Study Luncheon, Dec. 11 at noon following services, features **Jay Brodbar**, sociologist and planner, speaking on the Jewish Community of Greater Toronto in the 1990s: What Do the Numbers Tell Us. Reservations (prepaid) no later than Tuesday, Dec. 7. Unpaid reservations cannot be accommodated. Call synagogue office, 781-3511.

AISH HATORAH EVENTS

Aish HaTorah events taking place at The Promenade, Suite 303. Call 636-7530.

Four-week series, Ethics and Contemporary Issues, with **Dr. Michael Kirzner** starts Monday, Dec. 6, 8 p.m. Cost $5 per class, $15 series. To register, call **Bev**, 636-7530.

'Twas the Night Before Chanukah—The Meaning and Observance of Chanukah, Tuesday, Dec. 7, 8 p.m. with **Rabbi Mitch Mandell**. Cost is $5. To reserve, call **Bev**.

1994 JEWISH BOOK AWARDS

The Jewish book committee at the Jewish Community Centre invites submissions for the Sixth Annual Literary Awards. Categories include Creative Writing, History or Scholarship on a Canadian Jewish Subject, Religion, Holocaust Literature and Memoir/Biography. Awards include a monetary prize. Books with Jewish content published in Canada between January '91 and December '93 are eligible. Books published after January '92 but not chosen for the 1994 awards will continue to be eligible for the 1995 prizes. Submissions will not be returned. Send two copies to **Chaia Berkowitz**, 4588 Bathurst St, North York, M2R 1W6. Call 631-5661.

KABBALAH LEARNING CENTRE

Chanukah events at The Kabbalah Learning

[Cont'd. on page 31]

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Organizations and People

What's New

[Cont'd. from page 30]

Centre, 678 Sheppard Ave. W., include a holiday seminar on Chanukah, from a Kabbalistic perspective, Tuesday, Dec. 7, 7-10 p.m., fee $15; and a Chanukah celebration, Saturday, Dec. 11, fee $10. Call 631-9395 for details.

ABILITY BEYOND DISABILITY

The Muki Baum Association is selling and displaying many fine art pieces through Friday, Dec. 3 at North York City Hall, main floor, north foyer, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Featured items are hand-painted T-shirts, gift baskets, jewelry, paintings, holiday cards. The association operates day treatment programs and a residential program for individuals who suffer from developmental disabilities combined with severe emotional and/or psychiatric disorders.

CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

Chai Shalom invites you to a Chanukah celebration Saturday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m. (doors open 7 p.m.) at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, with musical entertainment by **Yitzhak Argaman** and **Mickey Lewin**, and traditional Chanukah refreshments. Tickets $8, available at synagogue office, 633-3838. No tickets will be sold at the door. Evening is extended to Chai Shalom members (membership $10 a year). For information, call **Paul Sheffield** 445-8153 or 445-5222, or **Shirley Katz** 661-4471 or **Marlene White** 881-8787 (evenings).

GAY LESBIAN BISEXUAL STUDENTS

The Coalition of Jewish Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Students holds weekly support group meetings with a social worker Wednesdays, at 6 p.m. in Room 2005, Vanier Hall, York University. For information, call 925-XTRA, ext. 2114 for a recorded message or call **Claire**, 736-5179.

AT THE KOFFLER GALLERY

The Koffler Gallery, 4588 Bathurst St., announces the premiere of Selected Treasures, Tuesday, Dec. 7, 8 p.m. Selected Treasures is the travelling component of A Treasury of Canadian Craft, the inaugural exhibition of the Canadian Craft Museum, Vancouver.

In the Logia Gallery, a selection of new and recent paintings by Toronto artist **Alexandra Flood** serves as the eighth exhibition in the High Junk curatorial project. Both exhibitions continue through Jan. 14.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service offers the following groups— Parenting the Young Child (begins Jan. 12); Looking Ahead (after separation and divorce, begins Jan. 13); Living With Teens (begins Jan. 18). For information on fees and registration, call **Pat Lieberman**, 638-7800.

COME LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE

See the Chanukah menorah as it burns brightly at a synagogue within easy driving distance! A Reform congregation with a warm traditional outlook on Judaism, Solel Congregation, 2399 Folkway Dr., Mississauga has a religious school, adult education, Sisterhood, Brotherhood, youth group, weekly Shabbat and Friday evening services, Tuesday morning minyans. Be part of the Solel family. Join the family service 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10. Call (905) 820-5915.

HOCKEY CAMP

Winter Break Community Hockey Camp, Dec. 20-24 and Dec. 27-31, offers four hours on ice activity and three hours off ice activity per day. Call (905) 884-6965.

INFANT INTERVENTION STUDY

Parents of infants, 10-24 months, experiencing any of the following problems— sleeping, feeding, separations, behavioral, difficulties soothing your infant, not bonding, are invited by the C.M. Hincks Institute to participate in an infant intervention study involving the use of play and discussion. Families will receive a full assessment and findings will be discussed with parents. Confidentiality assured. Contact **Carol Kehm**, 924-1164, ext. 3250.

VISIT A HOMEBOUND SENIOR

Winter is a difficult time for older people. As temperatures drop and sidewalks turn icy, the elderly spend more time indoors alone. This winer, you can brighten the life of an older person through Senior Care (Community services to Jewish Elderly) Volunteer Visiting Program. Bring warmth and companionship to a lonely, homebound senior by becoming a volunteer visitor. Call **Arnold Foss**, 635-2860.

SPEAK, READ, WRITE HEBREW

Keren Hatarbut Institute of Hebrew Studies, 788 Marlee Ave., announces registration is open for winter courses for adults and teenagers in conversational Hebrew for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. Morning courses run Monday, Jan. 17-April 25, 9:40-11:05. Evening courses run Tuesday, Jan. 18-April 26, 7:30-9. Classes are conducted under the guidance of skilled Israeli teachers. The promise is that beginners will speak, read, and write Hebrew in 14 sessions. Free introductory private lessons for beginners. The instructor for the beginners' course is **Joseph Klinger**, educator and founder of the Israeli ulpan method in teaching Hebrew in Toronto. For consultation and registration, call him, 787-0197.

at the JCC

On Tuesday, Dec. 7, Senior Adult Services at the JCC North Y branch presents Our Heritage with **Yitzchak Deutsch**— Jewish Artifacts: their origin and history. Time is 1 p.m. in Room 202-203. For information, contact **Yvonne Martell**, 636-1880.

Registration is underway for North Y branch's Tic Tac Twos, Nursery, Junior and Senior Kindergarten programs for 1994/5. Limited spaces. Call 631-5651 or 636-1880, ext. 248.

for seniors

The Senior Peer Counselling Service, a hotline for seniors run by seniors volunteering their time and efforts, operates 1-4 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. The number to call is 395-7720. Program is a joint venture of North York Seniors Centre, Downsview Services for Seniors and North York Public Health Department with planning support from the Wagman Centre and Taylor Place.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club upcoming events— the movie *Once Upon a Scoundrel*, Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2 p.m.; Saturday dance, Dec. 11, 7-10 p.m.; Sunday dance with live band, Dec. 12, 7:30-10:30 p.m.; Chanukah party, Tuesday, Dec. 14, $5 members, $6 non-members; New Years dinner/dance, Wednesday, Dec. 29, $20 members, $25 non-members. For information on all activities, call club office, 395-7881.

Beth Tikvah Friendship Group, 55 plus, invites everyone to a Chanukah party with entertainment and refreshments, Thursday, Dec. 9, 8 p.m. at the synagogue. Charge is $5 members, $7.50 non-members. For information, call synagogue office, 221-3433.

December highlights at **Shalom Village** in Hamilton— Friday, Dec. 3, trip to Ontario Art Gallery; Sunday, Dec. 12, Chanukah concert with **Mrs. Nisman**, 2 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 16, cocktails and canapes, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 19, Simcha birthday celebration for **Sandor Szasz, Ethel Loebel, Sam Quitt** and **Lottie Marks** with entertainment by **Paul Mathews**, 2:30 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 30, trip to Niagara Falls to see the Light Festival, 6:15 p.m. Call **Susan Mills**, 905-528-5377.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). In addition, there's a Chanukah party, Saturday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m., $6 members, $7 non-members. Call **Eliezer**, 783-9453.

LZA Seniors Club has a few seats left for Miami trip. To register phone **Libby**, 782-2059. Chanukah dance and party is Saturday, Dec. 11. Tickets available at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Cultural Discussion Group meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon, and Ladies Line Dancing meets Tuesdays, 1 p.m.

Sunrise Group celebrates New Years in Akron, Ohio, featuring the Guse Family, Dec. 30-Jan. 1., $295 Canadian, double occupancy. Also, a Las Vegas trip April 24-28. Call **Esther**, 223-9436 or **Sophie**, 889-9436.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club is holding a Chanukah party Monday, Dec. 13, 12:30 p.m. with **Michael Khinkis** entertaining. A trip to Las Vegas including kosher hotels is in the planning. For information on all activities, call **Lena**, 785-5773 or **Ruth**, 224-5923. Remember the Golden Book to mark special occasions. Your donations go to Laniado Hospital in Israel. Call **Dorothy Bloomfield**, 787-1526.

Come with the **Young at Heart Seniors** to Florida for two weeks to three months at the Sherry Frontenac (efficiency, package deal, $1875, double occupancy) or Sasson Hotel. Call **Doreen** or **Helen**, 635-6343.

CENTRE FOR CREATIVE LIVING

The Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living is at 1003 Steeles Ave. W. Phone 225-2112.

Monday, Dec. 6, 1:30 p.m., Lifelong Learning Institute Art Appreciation program features portrait painter **David Nemtzov** who will give a slide presentation and talk on art, bone structure, form, followed by a question and answer period. No charge.

La'Briyut Wellness Centre health lecture series presents Is Life Holy? with **Rabbi Steven Saltzman**, Thursday, Dec. 9, 1:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Admission free.

Etrog, an Israeli cultural club for Hebrew speaking adults, meets Wednesdays at 7 p.m. A Chanukah party with entertainment by **Shlomo Aviv** and **Michael Khinkis** is arranged Dec. 8. For information, call **Anna**, 225-2112.

The movie *What's Up Doc* will be screened Sunday, Dec. 5, 2:30 p.m.

Also Sunday, Dec. 5, dance to the music of the Creative Band 7:30-10:30 p.m.

The Wednesday afternoon social Dec. 8 features **Fern Dworkin** in concert, 1:30 p.m.

About People

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Arthur Tannenbaum is one of the five recently appointed Ontario justices of the peace. Recently retired as chief administrative officer for Associated Hebrew Day Schools where he worked for the past 20 years, he has an extensive record of community involvement in Canada and the U.S., participating in groups such as the City of Vaughan Race and Ethnocultural Committee, the Urban Renewal Organization in Syracuse, N.Y., and the Boy Scouts.

HONORARY PRESIDENT

Joe Grossman was appointed honorary president of the Council of Jewish Brotherhoods of Metropolitan Toronto and Vicinity in appreciation for his exemplary efforts and dedication to the organization.

Dr. Kirshen

Dr. Gyenes

BAYCREST APPOINTMENTS

New staff appoitments at Baycrest Centre include **Dr. Albert Kirshen**, who has been named program director for Continuing Care and interim director of the Concentrated Care Unit at Baycrest Hospital, and **Dr. Tal Ora Gyenes**, named program director for Rehabilitation Medicine.

Dr. Kirshen, a University of Toronto graduate, recently served as program director for geriatric medicine at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg, and as chair of the section of geriatric medicine for Manitoba Medical Association. Dr. Gyenes, a graduate of Tel Aviv University School of Medicine, did research at the Weizmann Institute in Israel and Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto. Most recently she was a fellow in Behavioral Neurology at Baycrest.

KOLLEL ESH DAT DINNER

Jeffrey Rubenstein (far left) and Joseph Isakow (second from right) were honored at the annual dinner of Kollel Esh Dat in Tel Aviv. Jeffrey Rubenstein's father (second from left) is a former honoree. Rabbi Moshe Burak (far right) chaired the event.

UJA LUNCHEON

From left are Oscar Rajsky, his wife Esterita, West Bank military court judge Jonathan Livny, and Steven Hershenhorn and Harry Rosen, co-chairs of UJA's Fashion Division. Livny recently briefed UJA luncheon on West Bank development at the Rajsky home.

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Arts

Books

By BERNARD BASKIN

Conrad Black: A Life in Progress (Key Porter $32.95.)

A cynic once said that an autobiography reveals nothing bad about its author except his memory. It is also an unrivalled vehicle for telling the "truth" about other people, as well as a preemptive strike against biographers.

On the threshold of his 50th birthday, Conrad Black has decided to tell the story of his climb to fame and fortune, as well as express his opinions on matters political and personal and to comment on the host of famous personalities he has encountered.

The author has much to boast about. His influence is enormous. From his London office he oversees a global network of more than 250 newspapers including the prestigious *Daily Telegraph*, the widely read *Jerusalem Post* and several dozen smaller dailies and weeklies across North America. In addition, he owns a considerable portion of the Southam newspaper chain.

Some readers will find Black's savage battles in the realm of business informative and fascinating. These include the acquisition and dismantling of Dominion Stores, the vicious struggle for the ownership of the *Daily Telegraph* and the questionable methods employed in the victorious quest for Argus Corporation.

Others will be intrigued by his explicit views on religion, Canadian politics, the British monarchy, societal violence, the supremacy of the United States, the art of journalism, organized labor and the welfare state.

Black acquired the insolvent *Jerusalem Post* in 1990. He was confident that Israel would grow more prosperous. He writes, "It has always struck me that one of the great ironies of the contemporary world is that the Jewish people are renowned, wherever they are a minority, as a financially and professionally gifted people, disproportionately prosperous and talented, but especially militaristic, but that Israel, the world's foremost warrior and garrison state, was an economic basket case, sustained from New York and Washington. This would surely change."

Ma'ariv, the Hebrew-language newspaper in which fellow newspaper tycoon Robert Maxwell had an interest, maintained that Black, "a devout Catholic," was an unsuitable owner for the *Post*. Black responded by threatening to publish Maxwell's 1950s denial that he was Jewish if a paper of his ever wrote such a thing again. Maxwell apologized.

The author's account of his exploits, strivings, failures and successes is calculated to enlighten and infuriate. The absorved reader must endure a rash of complex and convoluted sentences, but is rewarded by mordant witticisms, unexpected information and shrewd observations.

Australian film paints grim picture of misguided youth

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Romper Stomper is strong stuff.

Geoffrey Wright's Australian feature film about a neo-Nazi skinhead gang that terrorizes a neighborhood and meets its comeuppance is recommended viewing.

The movie, which broke box office records in Australia, opens on Dec. 3 at the Bloor Cinema. It will run for one week.

Romper Stomper revolves around a gaggle of leather-clad youth who lash out at Vietnamese immigrants, whom they accuse of "taking over" their turf. Their leader, Hando (Russell Crowe), spouts racist mouthings, keeps track of newly-bought "Gook" properties and quotes admiringly from Hitler's turgid tract, *Mein Kampf*.

The first scene sets the tone.

Two Vietnamese, minding their own business, are suddenly attacked by Hando's skinheads, who kick and pummel them. As they leave, Hando snarls, "This is not your country."

The victims' fellow Vietnamese are loath to hit back, but after a second brazen assault by Hando's goons, they assemble a retaliatory force.

Viewers will get a vicarious thrill as they watch the justly aggrieved Asians wreak havoc on Hando's thugs. They leave a swath of destruction in their wake, demolishing a flat filled with Nazi flags and posters.

But *Romper Stomper* is not merely about simple vengeance. Wright draws a compelling portrait of neo-Nazis, and it isn't a flattering one. They are lewd, ignorant, nihilistic, insecure, childish and utterly prone to violence. In short, they are in a state of rebellion against the norms of society.

The most vivid characters are Hando, a white supremacist who, in Hitler's words, wants to preserve the "racial purity" of the white race at all cost; Gabe (Jacqueline McKenzie), his sexually-abused squeeze who eventually turns on the gang; Davey (Daniel Pollock), Hando's right-hand man, who falls in love with Gabe; and Bubs (James McKenna), the prepubescent groupie who worships Hando.

In essence, *Romper Stomper* is about the last gasp of Hando's hoodlums. In a series of skillful and vivid scenes which mark him as a filmmaker of uncommon talent, Wright chronicles the gang's bloody demise.

The final minutes boil over with savagery and irony, as Hando grapples with Gabe in a settling of accounts. As the pair struggle on a deserted beach, with Davey in close proximity, camera-toting Japanese tourists watch puzzled from a distance.

Never boring and always vital, Wright's gritty film paints a grim, realistic picture of angry, alienated, misguided youth who turn to extremism and demagoguery for simple answers.

Wright is to be congratulated for having made a film that is not only powerful, but disturbing.

Play captures Jewish life in the '30s

By BEN ROSE

TORONTO —At the age of 77, veteran actor Irving Hoffman has written his first play, *The Dreamer*, about the trials of a Toronto Jewish family in the Depression of the '30s and he has no apologies about its autobiographical elements.

His own father, Sid, was a viola player with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, as is the father in the play, and the 17-year-old stage struck son did what he himself did in the Depression—borrowed $2 from his father to buy a dozen ties then sold them by going from factory to factory in the garment district.

Times were so tough the Hoffman family had to take in roomers in their Grace Street home to make ends meet, and so does the family in *The Dreamers*.

The would-be actor has a role in *Waiting for Lefty*, the famous play by Clifford Odets, and by coincidence, author Hoffman did, too, for he also appeared in the Theatre of Action productions of *Roar China* and *It Can't Happen Here*.

Theatre trouper

A true theatre trouper, Hoffman has never earned a nickel for all his stage appearances, though he has from CBC-TV and CBC radio (at $2 a crack) and from TV commercials. All those years he trod the boards he worked as a hairdresser or as a salesman selling beauty supplies for 27 years to pay the bills. Now he is retired and able to spend all his time in writing and acting.

The Dreamers is not purely autobiographical for Hoffman says he has added fictional elements to heighten the drama. But the grandfather in the play who sleeps all day and plays solitaire all night is true to life. Some of his other actions, however, are not.

The premiere of *The Dreamers* with its eight-member cast is a staged reading by the Medina Theatre Ensemble at the Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., Dec. 12, at 8 p.m., with an admission charge of $4 for members and $7 for nonmembers. It is being directed by Sylvia Lennick.

The event is the first sponsored by Medina since it became affiliated with the Jewish Community Centre.

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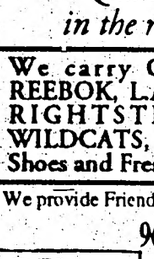

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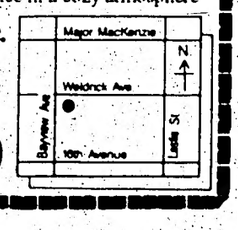

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Filler's humor on cutting edge

By BEN ROSE

Deb Filler

TORONTO — Deb Filler is a talented actor who attempts the seemingly impossible task of making a comedy out of the lessons she learned from her 70-year-old father, Sol, a survivor of Auschwitz. The number one lesson was to laugh and get up off the floor, hence the title of her show *Punch Me In The Stomach* running at Leah Posluns Theatre until Dec. 19. It is co-written and directed by Alison Summers.

Sol takes her on a visit to Auschwitz and other eastern European death camps. "Don't slouch," he tells her, "if you slouch in the camp they shoot you."

Filler peoples her one-woman show with characterizations of 30 of her zany relatives and friends in New Zealand where her father operated a bake shop. One of her uppity aunts turns down a Louis XVI chair for her living room because it doesn't go with leopard skin.

It's almost a super-human task which Filler and Summers try in this novel approach to comedy-drama and the show still has the feel of a work in progress, rather than a set piece. It jumps from one scene to another so quickly that it cries out for a final, structured shape so the audience can stay with it.

Still, *Punch Me In The Stomach* gives a glimpse of theatre at the cutting edge, and provides a refreshing change of pace for the Leah Posluns subscription series which depends mostly on tried-and-true classics.

The strongest point of 39-year-old Filler's show (her Antipedes accent is a delight) is that it is based on a real family and real experiences. Her relatives are scattered over the globe. "My uncle is the only mohel in Mexico, you phone 1-800-SNIP." There are revealing photos of her father and other family members in the theatre lobby.

Also, her anecdotes about life as the only Jewish girl in the New Zealand school ("they were reading *Dr. Seuss* while I was reading *Diary of Anne Frank*)" ring true. One mother called in a neighbor and said, "Come and see the little Jewish girl we have here."

Filler doesn't hesitate to inject social issues of the day and she does so without apology, as if to remind the audience that there is more to life than the material world.

Her handling of the Holocaust material is confident. Two long monologues by her father are the spine of the show, delivered in a realistic and unsentimental mode.

The theme of *Punch Me In The Stomach* is illustrated in the stories she tells about her trips through the camps with her father. Of Therienstadt, the phony Nazi "model" camp where her father was finally liberated by the advancing Allies, she said: "Fabulous atmosphere, but no food."

Near the end, looking out, quoting her father she says: "The last time I saw so many Jews together they were naked."

BILL GLADSTONE'S EYE ON ARTS

A scroll of Esther from the ancient Jewish community of Kai-Feng-Fu, China, and a double-seated baroque circumcision chair from Berlin, 1766. What might two such disparate objects have in common? Both were once used by Jews, and both are now part of the extensive Cecil Roth collection the Beth Tzedec Synagogue acquired three decades ago with help from the Shopsowitz family.

A renowned and tireless Jewish historian, Roth wrote more than 600 essays, articles and books and was editor-in-chief of the monumental *Encyclopedia Judaica*. On Dec. 2, an exhibit opens at the Beth Tzedec entitled The Heritage of Cecil Roth: His Contribution to Jewish History and Art. Besides the above-mentioned artifacts, the show features a group of illuminated kettubot (marriage contracts), some dating back to the 16th century, and much else.

The exhibit continues at the Beth Tzedec Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum until next September. Beth Tzedec is located at 1700 Bathurst St.

– – –

Two interesting art shows open this week. In the Arts on King Loft Galleries at 169 King St. E., textiles, sculptures, paintings and jewellery may be seen, beginning with the opening reception on Dec. 2 from 6 to 9 p.m. The art is the work of Elsie Blaschke, Robert Danielis, Kevin Maclean, Julia F. McNeely and Francis Muscat, and remains on exhibit through Jan. 31.

Acrylic paintings by Fred Herscovitch are on display at the Annex Art Centre, 1073 Bathurst St., Toronto, from Sunday Dec. 5 to Jan. 2. Herscovitch, who based the works around the everyday envelope, says the paintings are "subtle and brash, dark and bright, such as the supply of treasures and junk you find in your mailbox every day." Meet the artist at the opening, Dec. 5 from 2 to 5 p.m.

– – –

Music Notes: Catch the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band at a free public lunchtime performance, 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday Dec. 8 at the Waterfall Stage of the First Canadian Place.

Paul Kowarsky, cantor at the Beth Tzedec Synagogue, is one of three featured tenors who take the stage of the Jane Mallet Theatre on Tuesday Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. Along with Mark DuBois and Guillermo Silva-Marin, the celebrated South African-born recording artist presents *Amore Mio*, an evening of "tenor madness" filled with operatic and cantorial gems, accompanied by pianist Brahm Goldhamer. Call Toronto Operetta Theatre, 366-7723, to reserve tickets (prices range from $22 to $32).

Golden Moments from Yiddish Theatre and The World of Yossele Rosenblatt are the two parts of the program being presented Sunday Dec. 12, 8 p.m., at the Holy Blossom Temple. Golden Moments presents four classic scenes from the heyday of the Yiddish Theatre from 1880 to 1920. The Rosenblatt segment is a dramatization through music of the life of the renowned cantor. Yehuda Rotner, Ephriam Sapir, Thomas Schwartz, Louis Danto and Anna Trubashnik are some of the featured voices.

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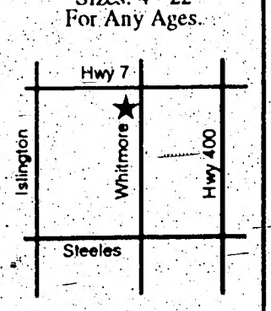

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Thailand's community gets a rabbi

By ALEXANDRA WALL

BANGKOK, Thailand — When Yosef Kantor was ordained as a rabbi from the Lubavitch Rabbinical Seminary in 1990, he never anticipated having to slaughter 500-and-some-odd chickens each month.

In May, Rabbi Kantor, 24, his wife Nechama, 21, and daughter Chaya Mushka, 10 months, became the first rabbinical family to serve the Jewish community of Thailand in more than 20 years. The chicken slaughtering is in his job description.

Rabbi Kantor, who was raised in New York and Australia, served as a rabbinical intern in Ukraine for three months before his marriage, but this is his first post as head of a congregation.

The Jewish community in Thailand has sorely been in need of a spiritual leader. Rabbi Kantor was first posted there by the Lubavitch movement for Chanukah. He impressed the community so much he was asked to remain.

"During the Vietnam War we had a succession of rabbis who were stationed here to serve the U.S. troops," said longtime Bangkok resident Ruth Gerson. "But in 1974 that stopped, and we've had many temporary people, and sometimes no one at all.

"It is very difficult to attract a rabbi to this part of the world, especially one with a family," she said.

The 150 families consist largely of businesspeople, attorneys and retirees from the West, Israeli Embassy officials, and several Iranian Jewish families who fled to Thailand when Khomeini seized power in 1979. Many congregants are employed in the jewelry industry.

"We wanted someone who spoke both Hebrew and English. But not only that, we wanted someone who could really communicate well and relate to the people, irrespective of their level of observance," said Gerson.

Rabbi Kantor admitted that striking a balance that satisfies all members is not easy, but he credits his non-judgmental outlook as one component of his success.

"Whenever people ask me if our congregation is Orthodox, Conservative or Reform, I answer 'Jewish,' " said the rabbi. "If someone is less observant than me, he is still my brother, and I treat him with respect because he is a fellow Jew. And in that sense we are family."

Not having any support staff is Rabbi Kantor's greatest challenge, he said. Before arriving in Thailand to assume his post, he had to complete a course in shechita (ritual slaughter) to provide meat for those families that keep kosher, and for the one kosher restaurant in Bangkok, which is under his supervision.

Nechama Kantor teaches religious school on Sundays, organizes social activities, is active in the sisterhood, maintains the mikvah — which is adjacent to the synagogue — and is preparing for the opening of a preschool in January, which she will also oversee.

Her biggest complaint is about the heat and pollution of Bangkok. She looks forward to the day when she can take Chaya Mushka outside for walks in unpolluted air, somewhat ironically, as she herself grew up in Los Angeles.

"I wouldn't recommend it to anyone to live here, not even myself," she joked.

But both husband and wife believe strongly in the outreach philosophy of the Lubavitch movement. "We are shlichim, emissaries of the rebbe," said Rabbi Kantor, gesturing to a portrait of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson, hanging on the wall.

The Kantors do not know how long they will remain in Thailand, as the lack of a Jewish education for their daughter may prompt them to leave when she reaches school age.

Kantor presides over two synagogues. The main Jewish community center, Beit Elisheva, is a three-story building whose top floor is occupied by the Kantors.

For the more observant families, space is rented in a hotel in the gem district, within walking distance of their homes and businesses. The renters move every Shabbat to the hotel.

The one duty that does not fall upon the rabbi is that of being a mohel, someone who performs brit milah, or circumcision. So far during his tenure, one has not been needed. But if the need should arise, there is a Jewish businessman who resides in the Philippines who does circumcisions.

If someone affiliated with the Israeli Embassy gives birth to a boy, the Jewish Agency will fly in a mohel from Israel.

Outreach to the more temporary people is also a priority for Rabbi Kantor. The Israeli Embassy estimates that about 30,000 Israelis pass through Bangkok annually. That number may increase with a newly established El Al route beginning in December.

The president of the Jewish community, Michael Gerson, one of the few congregants who was born in Thailand, said it is a difficult community to lead because of its constantly changing makeup. Rabbi Kantor agreed, saying that sometimes, by the time someone is located, he or she is already leaving.

"But we are a very tight-knit, close community," said Michael Gerson.

Certainly Rabbi Kantor's bearded face draws some attention in a homogeneous society like Thailand. But there are enough foreigners here to make his look as out of place as anyone else, and it is of no concern, the Gersons said.

"Anti-Semitism is non-existent here," said Rabbi Kantor, "because your average Thai simply has no idea what a Jew is." **(JTA)**

Beth Israel congregation. [Marc Huber photo]

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Aruba gets first shaliach

By MARC HUBER

ARUBA — It's a long way from Rishon Le-Zion to Aruba, but for the last year, 22-year-old Israeli university student Adi HaCohen has been the island's Jewish community professional.

HaCohen is Aruba's first shaliach from the Arevim Project of the World Union of Jewish Students.

With HaCohen's assistance, the 60 members of the island's only synagogue, the Reform congregation Beth Israel in Oranjestad, now have Hebrew lessons three times a week, a monthly newsletter, weekly Erev Shabbat and Havdallah services and a youth group.

HaCohen also organized an educational exhibit at the capital's public library on Jewish life in the Caribbean. "The exhibition was only supposed to be two weeks long but one teacher brought her class and interest just snowballed for another two months," says HaCohen. "Some students even came to the synagogue to pray, learn more about the Jewish religion and understand anti-Semitism from the Jewish point of view. These students recognized our shared history of persecution."

Though today's Jewish community is quite tiny, many Arubans have Jewish roots. Since the first Dutch settlers and their slaves arrived in 1754, Jewish families have lived in Aruba. Their offspring intermarried and today a large number of Arubans proudly bear Sephardi surnames like Maduro, Gomez, Curiel and Capriles.

Last year, Beth Israel's former president, Ernest Shvartzer, discovered gravestone remnants in a deteriorating Jewish cemetery outside the capital of Oranjestad. The congregation is now restoring the cemetery as a community project. And members of the congregation recently located a biography of Aruba's first Jewish settler, Moses Maduro, in the island's historical archives.

Aruba's modern Jewish community began in the 1920s. Ashkenazis came from Holland and Poland while Sephardis arrived from Surinam and Curacao, nearby Dutch dependencies. These families were joined by Jews from North and South America.

In the 1950s, more than 200 Jews lived in Aruba. The community could support WIZO and B'nai Brith groups, a country club and a full-time rabbi. The temple was built in 1963. But numbers dwindled when the younger generation moved away to study and pursue careers elswhere.

Today, one-third of the small community is young. Temple Beth Israel hosted two bnei mitzvah last year, but no more are planned until 1995, when three young congregants will celebrate their bar mitzvahs.

"Once they leave, they don't come back," says HaCohen.

Aruba's Jewish community is fairly prosperous. Ike Cohen is one of the community's most successful entrepreneurs. The former president of the Jacksonville Association of Home Builders has been running hotels in Aruba since 1942. Cohen now owns the Talk of the Town Hotel, the Manchebo Beach Hotel and an in-flight food service catering operation. A regular at Beth Israel, Cohen can arrange to import kosher food for visitors. Cohen also speaks to Aruban schoolchildren about his experience as a Holocaust survivor. HaCohen says the community's next public education event is a program on the Hololcaust sponsored by the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Every year, the big event at Beth Israel is its community seder. Over 160 people (mainly tourists) show up for the Hagadah reading and traditional Passover fare. "We're always happy to welcome visitors to our congregation," says HaCohen.

Travel

TRAVEL TALK

By BILL GLADSTONE

SAN FRANCISCO — The rumbling is sudden and loud and the floor vibrates intensely. Yet patrons in this darkened theatre on Pier 39 in the Fisherman's Wharf district remain calm. And why not? They have paid $7 to attend the San Francisco Experience, a 28-minute multimedia show that promises "you will feel the earth shake."

Utilizing a huge screen, simulated fog and multiple film and slide projectors, the show presents a dynamic mosaic of images of historic events like the 1849 gold rush, the 1906 earthquake, the hippie-era Summer of Love and the 1989 earthquake from which the city is still rebuilding.

A uniquely colourful history only partly explains why *Conde Nast Traveler* magazine recently named San Francisco the world's favourite tourist destination. Set on hills surrounding a beautiful bay along a majestic coastline, San Francisco's architectural wealth, famous bridges and cable cars, diverse neighbourhoods, liberal attitudes and proximity to redwoods and vineyards all help to charm some seven million visitors who spend an estimated $4 billion annually.

"There's a lot of things that go on here that you're not going to see in Saskatchewan or Kansas," says Charles Ripp, proprietor of the King George, a small "boutique" hotel that has graced the Union Square area since 1914.

In contrast to highly visible Asian, Italian, Hispanic, black, gay, homeless and other communities, the Bay Area's 230,000-strong Jewish population — seventh largest in the United States — has a relatively low profile. "The Jewish community here is more assimilated than most East Coast communities," says Don Futterman, spokesperson for the regional Jewish Federation. "You don't feel the presence because there's not a geographic centre to the community. There isn't really a Jewish neighbourhood. There are pockets of Jews throughout the region."

Jews have been here since the city's founding, says Futterman. Prominent families include the Levis of blue jean fame, the De Youngs who founded the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the Swigs, who own the posh Fairmont Hotel on Nob Hill where President Bill Clinton stays. Another well-known member of the community is Rabbi Shlomo Carlbach, who founded the House of Love and Prayer, a Jewish response to the hippie era that has been superseded by the Aquarian minyan in the East Bay.

The Federation has a "more progressive agenda" than its eastern counterparts, according to Futterman. The community has twinned with the Israeli city Kiryat Shmona and has funded numerous programs that help both Israeli Arabs and Jews. Two weeks ago, about $2.1 million was raised during a Super Sunday fundraising drive.

Leading newspaper

The Sun Times of Canada, Canada's leading weekly newspaper in the U.S. Sunbelt, is offering free 4-week subscriptions to its first 1,000 new Snowbird readers. This Snowbird "Free News" offer is part of a widespread promotion drive to introduce *The Sun Times* to new readers.

The free 4-week subscriptions are available only to the U.S. addresses of Canadians heading to the South and only available until the 1,000 subscriptions have been filled. Family and friends may sign up a Snowbird if that person's complete Sunbelt address is provided.

Founded in 1990, *The Sun Times of Canada* is published weekly from November to mid-April in Tampa, Florida. It is distributed across Florida and Arizona, with circulation in some parts of Texas.

The Sun Times keeps Snowbirds up to date on everything that's happening back home. It covers politics, general and provincial news, business, sports and the arts. It features columns by leading Canadian journalists.

The weekly also provides extensive coverage on topics pertinent to Snowbirds, such as cross-border financial needs and tax concerns, estate planning, travel health insurance and use of the U.S. medical system.

To take advantage of this offer, readers may call *The Sun Times* toll-free at 1-800-253-4323, Monday to Friday, between 9-5. They should mention the "Free News" introductory offer, and be ready with the Monday date that they would like the free issues to start.

* * *

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Holiday Inn Worldwide has opened a second Israeli property in Jerusalem.

The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Jerusalem, formerly the Jerusalem Hilton, is operated under a franchise agreement by Africa/Israel Investments Ltd.

Africa/Israel Investments also operates the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaze in Tel Aviv, which opened in April.

The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Jerusalem offers 397 air-conditioned guest rooms with private balconies.

The hotel overlooks the New and Old cities near the Binyanei Ha'Ooma Convention Centre. The hotel is 40 minutes from the airport and five minutes from the city centre.

Reservations for the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Jerusalem may be made by calling 1-800-HOLIDAY or your travel agent. Rates for a standard single room begin at $150 per night for two adults.

Bnai Mitzvah can be part of Israel

Rites of passage exist in cultures throughout the world, and in the Jewish tradition the bar mitzvah for boys and bat mitzvah for girls is among the most exciting and emotional.

When a boy turns 13 years and one day by the Hebrew calendar, and a girl 12, they can participate in a time-honored ritual signifying acceptance and responsibility in the Jewish community.

When performed in Israel, this ceremony can be the central focus of a tour which includes all members and friends of the family.

Ceremonies at the Western Wall, the holiest site in Judaism, are held Mondays or Thursdays only. The bar mitzvah boy reads a portion of the Torah and wears tefillin (phylacteries). On special days such as Rosh Hodesh (the first day of the month), Chanukah, the intermediate days of Passover, and Sukkot (the Feast of the Tabernacle), the celebrant recites the appropriate blessings before and after the Torah reading.

The ceremony at the Western Wall is free of charge, but families can make a donation. Each family can request their own rabbi to officiate at the ceremony, or the Western Wall rabbi can be reached care of Tzvi Hoffman, Hechal Shlomo, Moreshet Hakotel, King George Street, Jerusalem. Telephone: 972-2-274-422.

It should be noted that all services held at the Wall follow the Orthodox tradition, so a bat mitzvah girl cannot read from the Torah. However, the girl's father or a male relative can read during the morning service.

Arrangements for a bar or bat mitzvah on the mountain fortress of Masada should be coordinated in advance by the accompanying rabbi, travel agent, or contact in Israel. For assistance, contact Nadia Granitz at the Arad Tourist Centre, Local Council, P.O. Box 100, Arad. Telephone: 972-57-959-333. Fax: 972-57-955-052. Any requests should include dates and times preferred, the number of participants, exact location on Masada, and method of arrival at the summit (cable car, Snake Path, or Western Arad approach).

For a bar or bat mitzvah at a synagogue, arrangements should be made privately through a rabbi or directly with the desired synagogue.

The Israel Ministry of Tourism furnishes a gift for each bar and bat mitzvah celebrant if arrangements are made beforehand at the Jerusalem Regional Office, Ministry of Tourism, P.O. Box 1018, Jerusalem. Telephone: 972-2-754-907. In Canada, the Israel Government Tourist Office can assist with those held at the Western Wall only. For more information call (416) 964-3784.

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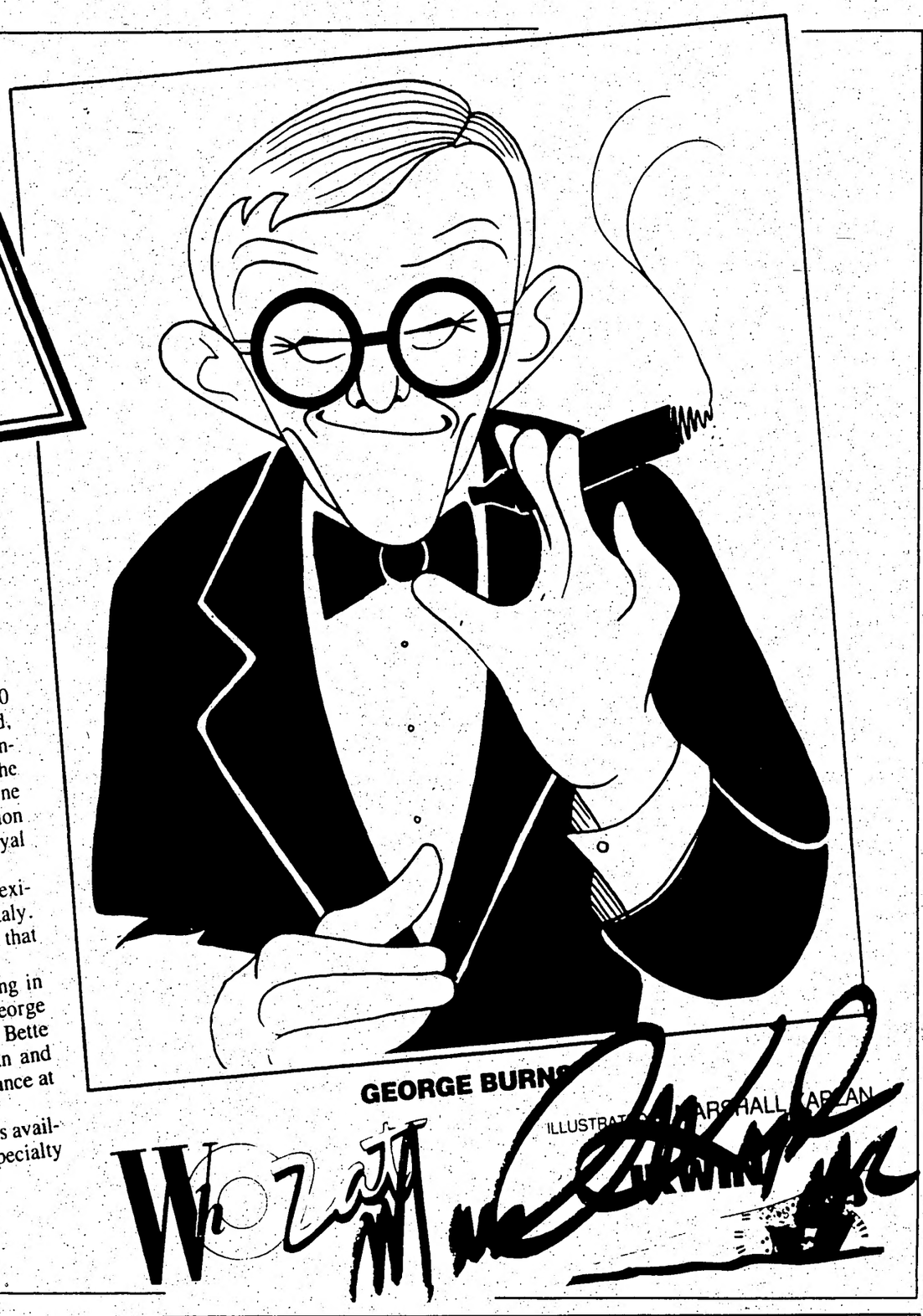

Who Zat?

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN

Those who never forget a face will love playing Who Zat, an adult board game featuring 350 drawings of celebrities from every walk of life.

Marshall Kaplan, creator and executive illustrator of Who Zat, says it is a great change from word games.

"It's a game in which no one loses. Everyone plays together and earns points," he says.

The object of the game is to recognize famous faces from the drawings on the game cards. "The number of points earned varies according to how much of the card a player has to see before finally recognizing the face," says Kaplan. "There are no unrecognizable faces. Each card carries a face that everyone knows."

The game, with celebrities ranging from Hulk Hogan to Cary Grant, is the result of two years of drawing and planning. "There are 250 core faces that are known throughout the world, but the game can be adapted to suit every country. For example, the Canadian version of the game features such celebrities as Wayne Gretzky, Jean Chretien, Joe Clark, Gordon Lightfoot, Anne Murray and the Royal Family."

Games are in the works for Australia, Mexico, Austria, Switzerland, Germany and Italy. Each game will feature faces prominent in that country.

Jewish celebrities make a good showing in Who Zat. With faces as famous as George Burns, Golda Meir, the Marx Brothers, Bette Midler, Barbra Streisand, Woody Allan and Neil Diamond, everyone has a great chance at earning points.

Who Zat, distributed by Irwin Toys, is available at major department stores and specialty shops.

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Toys designed for a diversity of children

By RUTH SCHWEITZER

Parents looking for dolls, stuffed toys, books and greeting cards that reflect ethnic diversity or cater to children with special needs inevitably wind up empty-handed after a trip to their local department store, says one store owner.

Joy Zelitt is the Jewish mother of nine children ranging in age from seven months to 15, including five adopted children with special needs. She has a multicultural, transracial family.

While looking for ethnic dolls for her children, she learned many other parents were in her shoes. Members of various minority communities in Canada she contacted told her they too were unable to find products that reflected their heritage.

Even when Zelitt and her husband left their Ottawa-area community of North Gower to shop in Toronto and Montreal, they had no luck in locating dolls true to Jewish styles.

To fill the need for ethnic products for children with special needs, Zelitt began a mail-order business that sells a variety of dolls, stuffed animals, cards and books.

She called the company, now a year old, Snailbrush because she wanted a creature as part of the name. "I'm very creature-oriented and I wanted a name that can be remembered," she says. A snail with a paintbrush on the shell will eventually become the company's logo.

Snailbrush has dolls of various nationalities and ethnic backgrounds, along with products for kids with disabilities, including a blind doll with a cane, an amputee doll and PI (physically inconvenienced) Bear in a wheelchair.

PI Bear comes with a storybook, an account of how he became disabled and the adjustments he made to his new way of life.

Zelitt says her own children love the dolls, all of which are hand-made. "They are so well made, they really look like they could just walk across the room to you."

In its selection of Jewish dolls, Snailbrush features a bar mitzvah troll, dressed in a blue suit, kippah and tallit around his shoulders. There is also Baruch Bear, a 21-inch high silver bear complete with kippah and tallit. Seniors are represented in the Jewish doll collection in the form of 12-inch Bubie and Zaide dolls. More detailed 20-inch Bubie and Zaide dolls will be available from Snailbrush soon, and Zelit is working on an Orthodox doll, dressed appropriately, to add to the Jewish collection.

The company also offers dolls that look like black, native and Asian children, including those with Korean, Chinese and Vietnamese features.

There are three Chanukah stories in the 32-title book list. One is about a boy who makes a dreidl for his blind grandfather and another is about a spider who discovers what the holiday is all about.

The Snailbrush series includes books that focus on the abilities of children rather than their disabilities. Of one book that features disabled and able-bodied children playing in a park, Zelitt says, "it sends a message that we're more alike than different."

There is a storybook about a deaf girl whose parents are expecting another child, and she is worried that her parents will love the new baby more than her if the baby can hear. Another book tells the story of how a boy overcomes dsylexia with the help of a good teacher.

Other books feature characters from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, including Japanese, Korean, Eastern European, native and Russian Jewish.

Black characters take the leading roles in three Snailbrush fairy tales, Hansel and Gretel, The Frog Prince and Sleeping Beauty. Audio tapes of the stories narrated by actor Robert Guillaume accompany the books.

Then there is Trusty, a head with a mop of hair, shoes, big brown eyes and pockets for ears. "Trusty is used by kids who have problems. They write 'trust' notes and put them in his ears," says Zelitt. "Trusty helps kids work through their problems because they have a confidant."

When the toy was tested, children left some heart-wrenching notes in his ears. They include "My daddy is in prison and it's my fault," "I'm so lonely," and "Can you make me pretty?"

Trusty has even helped abused women, says Zelitt, "because he's non-threatening, he doesn't look like a person and doesn't have a body."

She stresses that Trusty is not just for troubled children. "He's really just a nice cuddly toy."

Snailbrush also carries a line of greeting cards, including Chanukah cards, and blank note cards with kids of all nationalities on them. In 1994, cards with a Down's syndrome child and a child in a wheelchair as well as bar and bat mitzvah cards will be added to the line.

For a free catalogue, contact Snailbrush, 7668 Settler's Way, North Gower, Ont. K0A 2T0, telephone (613) 258-0177.

A gift of holiday sweets

By MARLA KAY

A wonderful time of the year is almost upon us. Chanukah is a celebration of the miracle of lights. Gift giving has become a very special part of this holiday and every year people face the same dilemma of what gift to buy.

This year, why not focus your gifts on everyone's sweet tooth?

Chocolate Charm which specializes in Kosher Swiss chocolate novelties, handmade truffles and gift baskets, offers traditional Chanukah chocolate gelt.

Owner Bob Levine sells chocolate dreidels on a stick, called Chanukah or Dreidel Pops, and gift-boxed dreidels large enough to be used as a centrepiece.

Levine says a popular holiday gift is the chocolate menorahs that come with candy cane candles. "These appeal to both adults and children."

If you are planning a Chanukah Party, the best place to start is at Kosher Natural. They carry a large selection of Chanukah gift bags, wrapping paper, balloons, stickers and beautiful edible and non-edible centrepieces and decorations. Their famous rentable Kosher donut machine creates delicious donuts on the spot and is available with several different toppings. What an exciting addition to your party!

Kosher Natural also carries a large assortment of silver- and gold-wrapped chocolate Chanukah gelt, dreidles, ½-pound chocolate menorahs and chocolates from Finesse.

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Books on Middle Eastern dishes

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

If you spend more than a little time in the kitchen, the following cookbooks may be of interest...

I have never been disappointed by Middle Eastern food. It is fresh, zingy, inventive and utterly addictive.

Having had the pleasure of dipping into it in Israel, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria and Toronto, I speak from some experience.

The Complete Middle East Cookbook by Tess Mallos (Raincoast Books, $39.95) whets the appetite for this cuisine of exceptional flavor.

A cooking consultant of Greek ancestry, Mallos delves far and wide. By Middle Eastern, she does not only mean the Arab world, but Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Armenia, Iran and Afghanistan.

In this lavishly-illustrated volume, she lists the basic ingredients of Middle East cooking — from okra and eggplant to lentils and nuts.

Furthermore, in each chapter, she describes the distinct flavors and cooking methods of each national cuisine.

Since she's a stickler for detail, she leaves nothing to chance. So this book is not only for newcomers to Middle Eastern cookery, but also for old pros.

It should be noted that virtually every recipe can be adapted by readers who observe the rules of kashruth.

Glancing through its contents, I was struck by a number of recipes:

The briami (vegetable casserole) and koukia tigantia (fried broad beans) of Greece; the gallos yemistos (roast stuffed turkey) and psari sto fourno (baked fish) of Cyprus; the domates salatasi (tomato salad) and sis kebap (skewered lamb and vegetables) of Turkey; and the dzedzadz tababour (yogurt and barley soup) and arapgiri topig (burghul and potato balls) of Armenia.

Under the heading of Lebanon/Syria/Jordan, I found such delights as baba ghannouj (eggplant and sesame puree), ardishawaki mihshi (stuffed artichokes) and mihshi malfuf bi zayt (meatless cabbage rolls).

Turning to Iraq, I encountered timman z'affaran (saffron rice) and habeet (spiced stewed lamb).

In the Gulf States, I ran across achar lefet (pickled turnips) and muaddas (rice with lentils).

Further along, in Yemen, my mouth watered with anticipation as I read about shawayuh (spiced charcoal grilled meat) and bint-al-sahn (dough cake with honey).

In Egypt, I was taken by couscous bi sukkar (sweet couscous with nuts) and basbousa (semolina cake).

Much further east, in Iran, the miveh dami (rice with fruit) and khoreshe holu (chicken with peach sauce) seemed highly appealing.

Last but not least, there was a chapter on Afghanistan. I was intrigued by, among other dishes, the maushawa (bran and meat ball soup) and the kabab-e-murgh (roast chicken).

Study *Middle East Cookbook* carefully. Inside are recipes to be treasured.

* * *

Middle Eastern food aficionados owe a great deal to Syrian food. The gastronomy of the region has been inestimably influenced by such classic dishes as *kibby* (fried ground meat pie) and *shish kebab* (skewered chunks of grilled lamb or beef).

Sephardi Jews, particularly those from the Fertile Crescent, have been nourished for generations by the eclectic fare of Syria.

Who can resist the allure of a meal consisting of, shall we say, an eggplant salad (salata il batinjan), a chick pea soup (shouraba il homos), a chicken stew (yukhnet jaj) and baklawa, nicely topped off with a cup of strong Turkish coffee?

Few, I would imagine.

If you want to get in on the secrets of Syrian cuisine, look no further than a slim, fact-filled book entitled *The Art of Syrian Cookery* (Hippocrene Books, N.Y., $8.95 U.S.)

Helen Corey, a Syrian-American, compiled this enticing collection of more than 250 recipes from her mother, Mabel (Maheeba), who seems to be a terrific cook.

Corey's compendium runs the gamut from appetizers to desserts. The recipes, which are to the point and exceedingly easy to follow, can be adapted by readers who observe the rules of kashruth. Oil, rather than butter, is an obvious substitute.

Before you rush into your kitchen, be sure your pantry is well stocked with basic ingredients.

Common spices are allspice, cloves, nutmeg, ginger, saffron and cinnamon.

Oft-used herbs are mint, basil, parsley, thyme, bay leaf and marjoram.

You'll also need anise, cardamom, coriander, cumin and sesame.

Once your spice rack is filled to the brim with the proper seasonings, you can cook up a storm.

As I flipped through the book, I was struck by such delicious-sounding dishes as yogurt with rice (laban-ee-yee ma'a roz), roast leg of lamb (faketh lahum ghanum), lamb burgers with pine nuts (kafta snoober), lamb chili (ghanum ma'a lubee), stuffed peppers (fly-flee mihshee), baked stuffed fish (samek mihshee) and vanilla pudding (almaseeyee).

The Art of Syrian Cookery is an ageless guide to the marvels of one of the lustrous cuisines of the Middle East. Keep it within arm's reach. You never know when you'll need it.

* * *

Three more cookbooks well worth perusal:

•*The Riversong Lodge Cookbook* (Raincoast, $29.95), a collection of hearty dishes from the Alaska bush. It's not your average fishing camp fare. That's for sure.

•*Cafe Pasqual's Cookbook* (Raincoast, $24.95) draws on the culinary tradtions of the American Southwest.

•*Cheesecake* (Raincoast, $12.95) offers 31 sensuous, sumptuous and sublime recipes for cheesecakes.

Read and enjoy!

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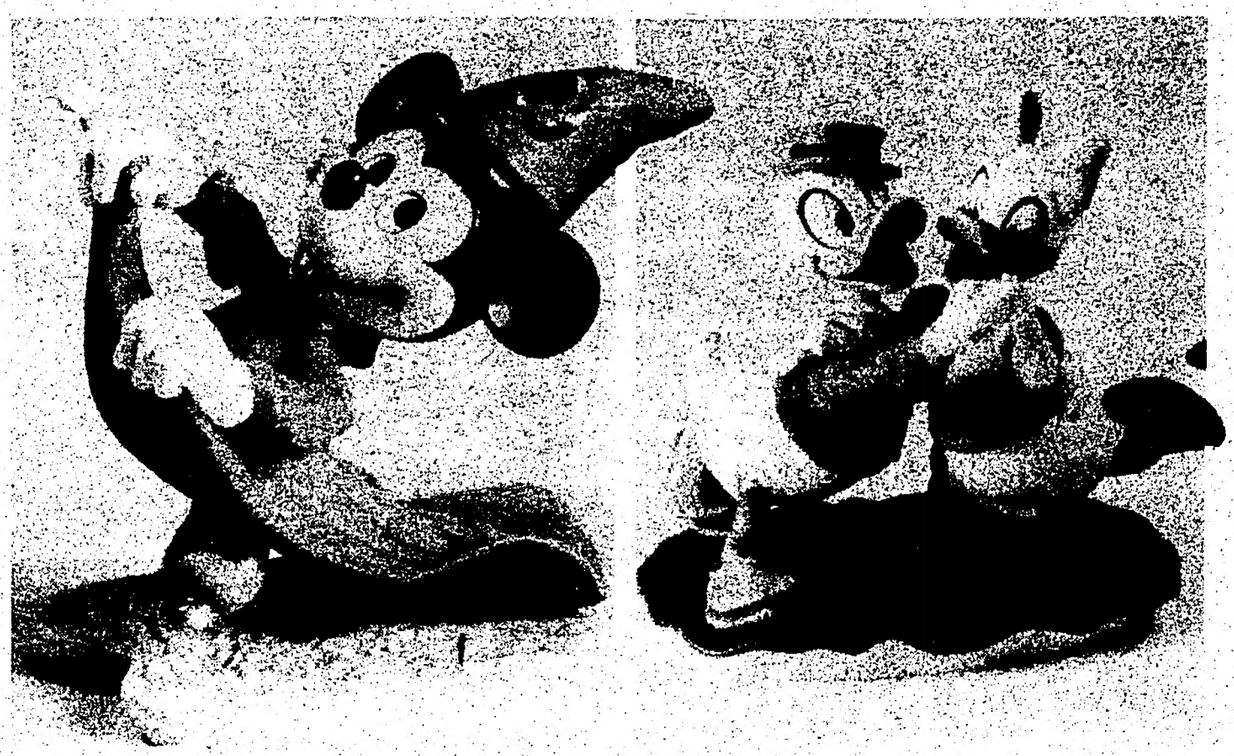

Pictured here are two of the figurines available at the Disney Store that are sure to win fans.

Disney brings out the child in you

By PAUL LUNGEN

Okay, I'll come clean.

When I was a kid throwing empty popcorn boxes and eating endless strands of red licorice at weekly matinee movies, my favorite flick was *Swiss Family Robinson*, the Walt Disney adventure classic.

I loved the way the shipwrecked family carved out a comfortable home on an isolated, tropical island and fought off the attacks of cutlass-wielding, back-stabbing, no-account pirates.

Memories of the movie came rushing back during a recent visit to the Disney Store in the Eaton Centre.

There, in a rack near other Disney classics like *The Absent Minded Professor*, *Davy Crockett* (King of the Wild Frontier), *The Love Bug* and *Kidnapped*, sat a video of *Swiss Family Robinson*.

The tape was just one of the many pieces of merchandise the Disney empire has made available to the shopping public as a seasonal gift idea for the kid in all of us.

With cartoon characters and family movies forming the basis of Disney's fantasy landscape, it was no surprise to find videos of all the classics on the store's well-stocked shelves.

For cartoon connoisseurs, there were videos of such memorable features as *Pinocchio*, *101 Dalmatians* and *Dumbo*, as well as more recent vintages like *Aladdin* and *Beauty and the Beast*.

And the legendary Mousemeister himself? Where was he in the midst of all this celluloid memorabilia? Just about everywhere you cared to look, from T-shirts and jammies to the faces of $100 watches.

The Disney marketing mavens have caught on to the idea that some kids never grow up entirely, they just get bigger and start wearing suits. How else to explain their proclivity for putting the likes of Mickey, Minnie, Goofy and Donald Duck on silk ties that dark-suited businessmen might wear?

Pooh Bear

Disney characters can also be found on silk boxer shorts, on golf balls, sweatshirts (there's one of a 1928 hockey team with all the players wearing Mouseketeer ears), coffee mugs and brooches. But most of the Disney knick-knacks are geared for children.

At the back of the store you'll find a big-screen television on which Disney programming is continuosly aired. Right in front of it is a kiddies' cornucopia of soft, squeezeable dolls that beckon to passing children.

One little man running amok in the store grabbed nearly every toy in sight as his grandpa patiently put them back in their place. No wonder he was so excited. The colorful toy collection included Pooh Bear (one of Disney's biggest sellers), dalmations, Mickey Mouse, bunny rabbits, a blue genie and assorted t'shatshkes that this veteran reporter had never seen before.

Much of the store's other merchandise is likewise geared for the younger set, such as lunch boxes and study blocks, hair clips and oversized bedroom slippers that look Goofy.

At the high end of the market, for those whose wallets are bulging with unwanted cash, are big ticket items like a Mickey Sericel that shows the cute little rodent in his earliest black and white incarnation, through his wizard years to his modern, red-shorted, yellow-shoed stage (he obviously never watched *Fashion Television*). Total price, a mere $700.

Other limited edition, framed pictures include one of a 3-D Bambi; price, $2,300.

For those of you who can't do without an "authentic collection" Mighty Ducks hockey sweater in maroon and green, they go for a modest $250 (better you should stay a Leaf fan).

With the holiday season beckoning, the Disney Store allows for creative gift giving to suit any kind of budget.

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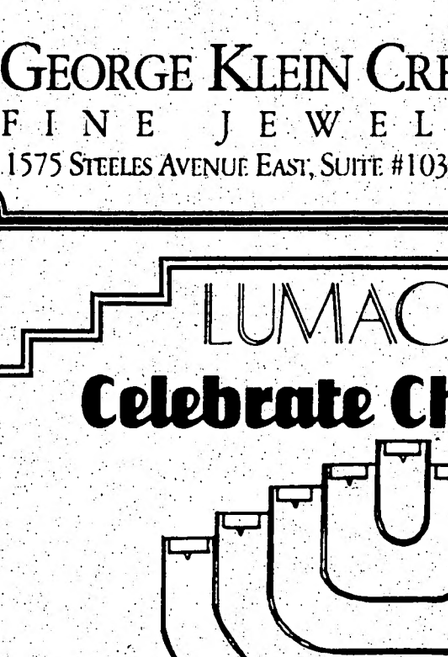

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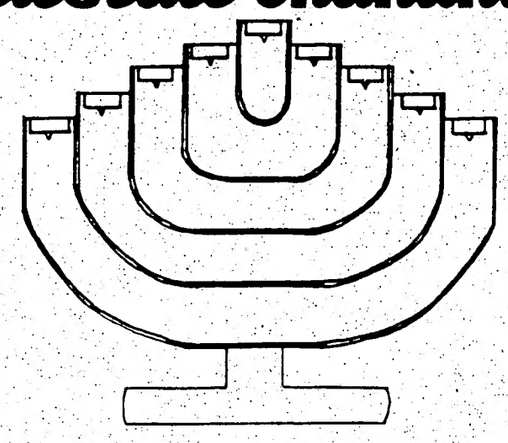

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Holiday Gifts

Gifts that pamper

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN

This Chanukah, pamper yourself, your loved ones or your friends with a gift of cosmetics or natural-care products from Cosmetics SuperCentre at 880 Denison St. in Markham.

The SuperCentre, which is known for its low, every day prices as well as regular specials, features quality cosmetics, skin care products and a large selection of natural cosmetics. It also carries the complete BWC (Beauty Without Cruelty) line which is free of animal by-products, mineral oil and petroleum derivations.

SuperCentre vice-president Diane Robertson says the hectic pace of life makes presents that pamper a big hit. "Our decorated gift baskets are custom-made according to taste."

Baskets are filled with scented soaps, bath or shower gels, brushes, sponges and loofahs. Staff are on hand to help choose a gift. "They ask questions about the recipient's tastes so that the basket is really custom-made for them," says Robertson.

New mothers will also enjoy SuperCentre gift baskets for babies, which include such items as baby shampoo, gentle creams and a teddy bear.

Those who want to make sure they are choosing perfect products for their gift recipient may want to send them into the store for a makeover, color consultation or skin analysis. The Demascar skin analysis machine helps customers select the best products for them.

Other services provided by the Cosmetics SuperCentre include aromatherapy, manicures and ear-piercing.

Glass artist creates individualized gifts

Klein is shown here with some of his masterpieces.

By CYNTHIA GASNER

An individualized gift is often difficult to find. Master glass artist Toan Klein, has the solution.

Klein has created glass vessels, paperweights and sculptures using a host of creative methods — and the results are outstanding art.

More than 100 pieces are on display at his studio at 280 College Street. And he will take custom commissions for special occasions. Visitors, he says, are welcome, by appointment (416) 960-9222. Klein's works can be found in collections and museums across North America and Europe.

It was in his senior year at Ohio University that he enrolled in a glassblowing class; he says, "I fell in love with the material." After graduation, he searched for a challenging job. After working briefly in Indiana in a glass factory producing paperweights, he moved to Montreal where he worked with Venetian glass blowers.

"I worked with masters for two and a half years and then decided to go out on my own," says Klein. "I established the first private hot glass studio in Montreal." In 1977, he moved to Toronto to set up his contemporary art glass studio. He notes that today, there are only a small number of professional artistic glassblowers in Canada.

Klein's pieces are multifaceted. One of his influences was the Scandinavian art glass of the 1950s. He created The Bubble Series: Concave-Convex. He explains that in order to trap the pattern of bubbles, he lowers the partially finished piece onto a grid of points which looks much like a waffle iron with sharp pyramids instead of squares. The tiny pyramids make an impression in the glass. He subsequently dips the piece in molten glass, which causes an impression to trap a drop of air. The piece is then blown to form.

Captures illusions in glass

Klein, 44, offers a choice of vases in varying sizes, which is a factor in his pricing. Vessels can cost from $125 to $2,000.

Paperweights are priced from $100 to $650 and for those who want a spectacular piece, a huge magnum paperweight may be as much as $1,500.

In 1975, Klein began to work on a concept of capturing a celestial illusion in glass. The black centres of these pieces are actually very deep colored translucent glass treated with high fired pigments to give a star-like effect.

Once the pigments are applied and heated, they are manipulated to their position and encased in crystal. By experimenting with various distributions of the core glass and crystal crown, he introduces faceting to the piece, which adds new dimensions. Using this technique, he creates vases, bowls, perfume bottles and small sculptures.

Registration service available

Klein and his brother Gary have a patent on glass objects with embedded photographic imagery called gatographs. Using a photo silk screen process, he incorporates high-temperature resistant materials between gathers of hot glass. He says that this is a challenge, as he works at temperatures in excess of 2,000 degrees.

He notes that rare examples of gatographics may be found in the permanent collections of The Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, New York, and The Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto.

The sculptures are more solid forms, and tend to be abstract. Each piece is individually crafted without the use of molds.

Two years ago, Klein produced a sculpture, Listen to the Flames, which commemorates 19 people in his family in Lithuania who perished in the Holocaust. The encased photos of his family were obtained from various family albums and each person is depicted as the flame of a candle. The sculpture was on display at Georg Jensen on Bloor Street and at the Beth Tzedec Synagogue. He says he is looking for a "high profile place to display this sculpture."

The glass artist has had selected exhibits throughout Canada and the United States. He has received international recognition and has been published numerous times. His pieces are in permanent collections including the Smithsonian Institute, Joseph Seagrams and Sons in Montreal, and the Musee de Verre en Liege in Belgium. A gift registration service is available.

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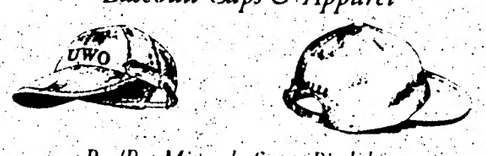

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Notable holiday literature

By LEILA SPEISMAN

Choosing Chanukah presents for the younger set is difficult, especially if you want gifts that are in the spirit of the holiday, and that they will really enjoy. Tapes and books can fill both those considerations.

Random House has put out a delightful package for Chanukah. *A Family Hanukkah* includes a dreidl, a book and a tape, one side of which is a straight reading of the book, and the other formatted for the young reader to read along.

The book, by Bobbie Katz with illustrations by Caryl Herzfield, is beautifully illustrated, and stresses the family, the nice feeling that comes with making small gifts with your own hands and the wonderful Chanukah experience both for children and adults.

The Chanukah story is told (by the grandfather) dramatically and vividly.

* * *

Yellow Brick Road Press has issued three books for children that are well worth looking into.

Hanukkah Carousel is a brightly-colored laminated board book, with poems about such Chanukah features as the dreidl (an Israeli one wears a kibbutz hat and waves an Israeli flag), a latke wearing an apron and hairbow, and dancing candles. Young children will love it.

The Chanukah story is told with enough verve to inspire a few Maccabbee games: *The Greeks didn't like the Jews at all/They put an idol at our Temple door/But we smashed it down and went to war.*

In the best of the "Where's Waldo?" tradition, Don Channen has illustrated *Uh! Oh! Hidden Objects You'll (Almost) Never Find*. Children will enjoy trying to find a coffee pot in a chaotic scene of a menorah, an ant in a latke restaurant and false teeth in a Greek army camp.

This is not for the really young child, who may well find it too frustrating, but the older youngster, especially one who likes puzzles, will get a kick out of it. It's perfect to look at in those moments after the Chanukah menorah is lit.

Another book for the child just starting to learn Hebrew is *My First Words*, also a board book.

Everyday objects are set in squares with the English, or Hebrew, name. Every other page is a window, which when turned, shows the word in the other language.

* * *

Just as this article was being written, McClelland & Stewart sent in a dynamite children's book, *The Always Prayer Shawl*, by Sheldon Oberman and illustrated by Ted Lewin.

This is the moving story of a tallit that is passed down through generations to a boy named Adam. It travels from the shtetlach of Russia to American suburbia, always keeping the sense of religious faith, family ties and love that passes from grandfather to grandson.

Repetition of the phrase "some things change and some things don't" adds a special poignancy.

Not strictly a Chanukah book (actually, it's not at all about Chanukah), is the beautifully done *God's Paintbrush* by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, illustrated by Annette Compton (Jewish Lights Publishing).

In this, the child talks about his feelings about God, about God's work and about relationships with other people. The reader is then posed questions to think about what has been said.

Step right up! Come one come all!
Hop on the ride that has lots to tell.
Hop on the Hanukkah Carousel!

The language is unusually poetic for a children's book: "I wonder if God has a big lap to curl up in,/just like my Mom's," "Sometimes I think God hides/and we don't want to look for God, because we are too busy or too afraid. God must feel terribly lonely then, too." Or "The sky looked like a lemon meringue pie. The fields of flowers seemed like layers of orange, red and purple jelly beans."

The Jewish Music Man

By CYNTHIA GASNER

"The family that sings together has a truly fantastic time," says Paul Zim, the chazzan-singer-virtuosos who has dedicated himself to creating cassettes and CDs that have become popular world over for children and adults.

Internationally acclaimed, his tenor voice has inspired countless listeners. He encourages lively participation as he builds a rapport with his audience.

Known as The Jewish Music Man, Zim's sing-along recordings come in a variety of Jewish musical styles. For Chanukah, there is *The Chanukah Party*. It's fun to listen to and will lighten up any Chanukah party. As well, he has another holiday sing-along cassette titled *The Zim Chaunkah Miracle*, performed with a children's choir, The Dreidelettes.

Zim's cassettes and CDs are available in Toronto at Israel's The Judaica Centre and the Negev Book and Gift Store.

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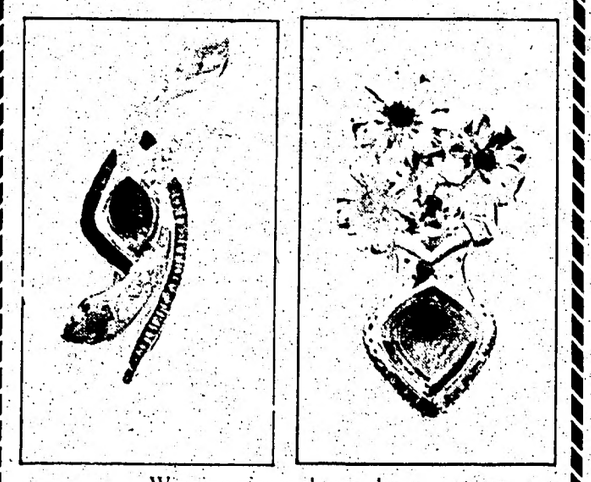

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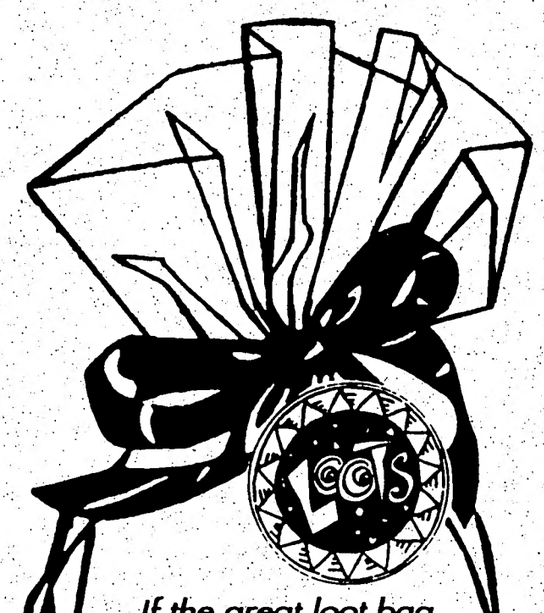

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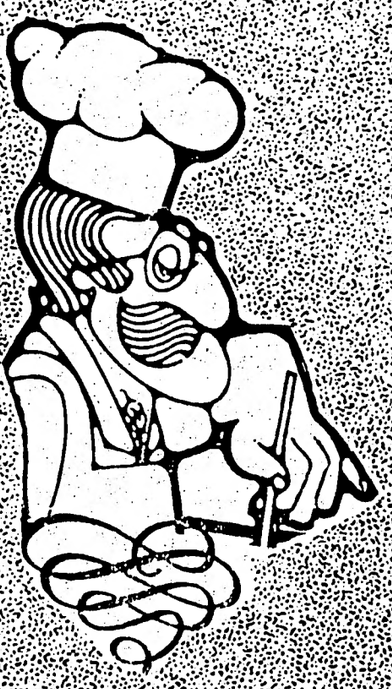

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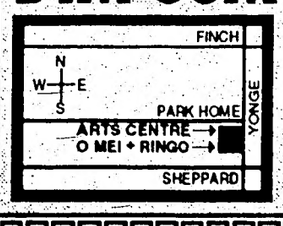

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Baycrest Centre

Stephen Herbert

Stephen Herbert, 52, president and chief executive officer of North York's Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care since June 1990, oversees a multi-faceted health and social services organization which includes a hospital, a home for the aged and an apartment residence. Baycrest provides care for over 2,000 elderly clients, both independent and infirm.

The former president of Montreal's Royal Victoria Hospital is also an associate professor at the University of Toronto's Department of Health Administration. He is a member of numerous professional associations and committees, both national and international.

In his comfortable office, one wall of which is covered with awards, diplomas and inspirational credos, Herbert recently discussed with CJN reporter Frances Kraft the challenges facing Baycrest in its 75th anniversary year.

CJN: *What are your priorities as president and chief executive officer of Baycrest?*

Herbert: It's paramount to address the needs of our clients and to respond to needs in the community.

There is a need to look at services to better respond to those with cognitive impairment. That is one of the thrusts in our strategic plan. Also, we have for many years tried to look at ways to help people stay in the community for as long as possible.

CJN: *In the Baycrest Bulletin of March 1991, you mentioned a new organizational structure at Baycrest that "reduced the layers of management." What specific changes have been made?*

Herbert: One example of what we've done is that there is now one [central] telephone number.

[The changes we've made] have freed up resources. We were able to combine some jobs. Staff cuts were made, but that wasn't the major purpose. The major purpose was to try and get people to share their expertise and reduce the layers of management.

CJN: *What else has been done at Baycrest that addresses financial constraint?*

Herbert: We've initiated ways of reducing our costs over the last couple of years. We just received an award from North York on our environmental program. We've done a number of energy reduction programs. We review each and every component of our system, including the light bulbs.

We've found a supplier to recycle disposable products. Sixty percent of Baycrest's waste is made up of incontinency products. All the incontinency products are now recycled, using very effective sterilization techniques and resulting in lower cartage costs for us. We began doing this [earlier this year], and other hospitals have since joined in.

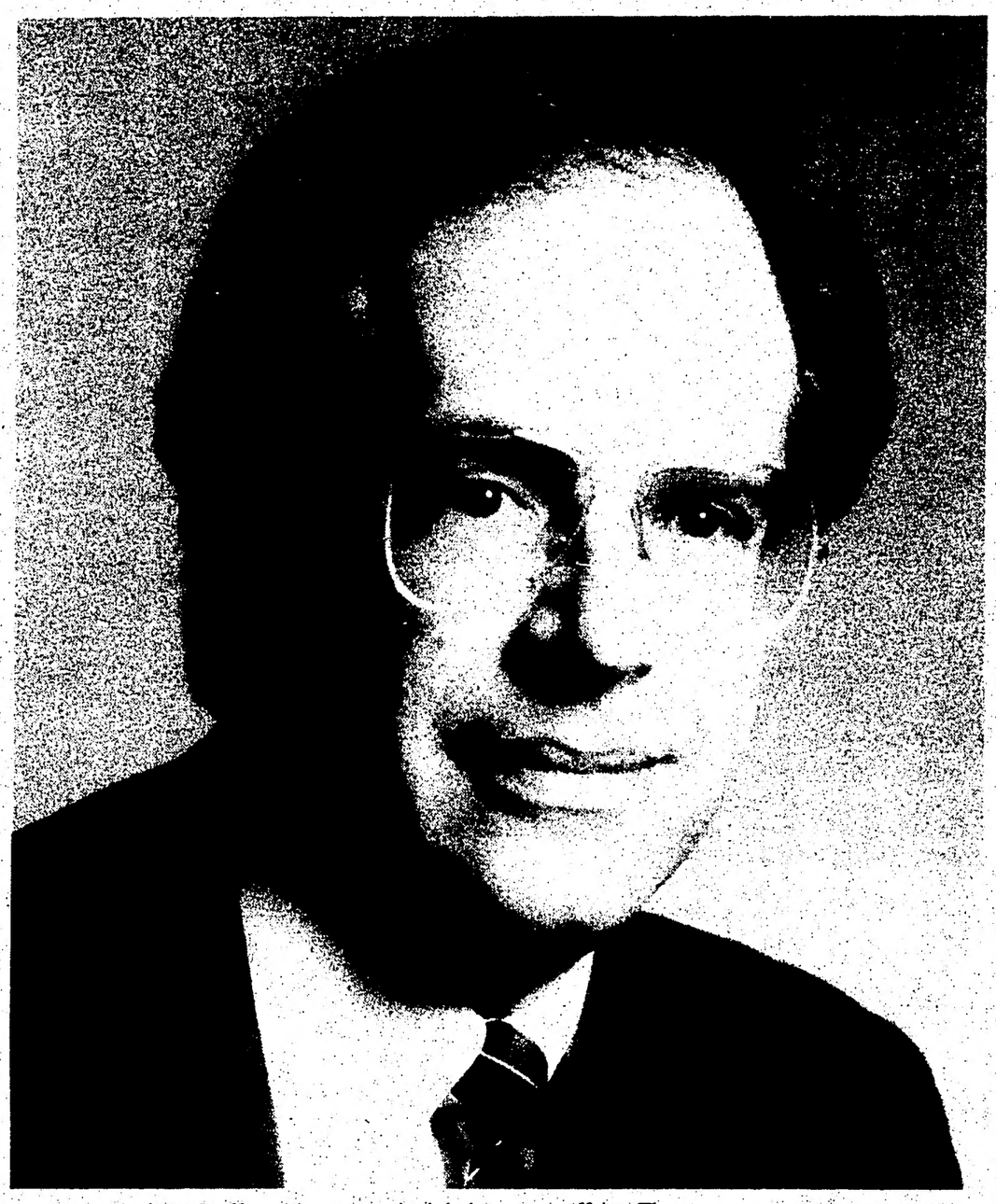
We have not had to close any beds nor have we reduced our program capabilities. We're committed to maintaining and improving the quality of the services we provide.

CJN: *How do you get feedback about what is actually happening on the floors of the home and the hospital?*

Herbert: We value the input of our clients and our families. Not only does it keep us on our toes, but it helps to identify issues that need addressing. Over the last many months we have established forums to facilitate that feedback.

In the Home we had a number of floor meetings with families. About a year ago we created a family advisory council. They provide feedback to the organization about the issues they see. That helps us.

There are also staff forums, which never happened here before. Staff meetings are scheduled [at midnight, if necessary, for night staff, and Herbert calls and chairs all of them]. It's helpful for morale.



CJN: *How have the needs of the elderly population changed in the past 75 years, and how has Baycrest kept pace?*

Herbert: People are staying in the community longer. We're constantly challenged to find innovative approaches, such as senior day care programs, caregiver support services, and health promotion programs to keep people healthier at older ages.

We've had a seniors' fitness path on our grounds for the past two years. There are stations along it where you stop and exercise. We have shared that design with others across North America.

Another aspect [is that] because people are living longer, those people entering the home and hospital are sicker and need more care. Many more are suffering from Alzheimer's disease or other cognitive disorders. This requires more specialized staff and facilities and has led us to [work on] establishing a centre for cognitive impairment.

Another thing that's surfaced is the whole area of competency as people age and face new challenges. We established a competency clinic [in the late 1980s] to determine whether people are competent to manage themselves and their own affairs. There are many aspects to competency. You may be incompetent in one area of competency but quite competent in the others. Our competency clinic is probably the only one of this kind in North America, bringing together psychiatry, legal and ethics for evaluation and research.

CJN: *Does Baycrest have the resources to handle the increased needs in the community over the next few decades?*

Herbert: Essentially I've been [dealing with the same problem] since the 1970s [at other institutions].

I think more and more, with the limited money that's going to be available from government, that we'll have to look at becoming more efficient by finding new ways to deliver services, and by working more closely with other organizations to avoid unnecessary duplication.

CJN: *What do you think needs to be done?*

Herbert: [We have to] help people come to recognize the need for change, wherever possible getting them to embrace that change and obviously adjusting as appropriate, and I think we've been doing some of that at Baycrest, as have other places.

It could be newer methods. [For example,] there is a lot more care provided on an ambulatory basis as opposed to the previous practice of treating patients in bed. That's just one.

We're going to see a lot more respite programs. (Baycrest recently opened respite beds for people with cognitive impairment to provide relief for caregivers.) We also have a day care program for people with cognitive impairments.

Another thing we're trying to do is to generate some revenue on our own. For example, our hospitality services. We cater and we have rooms such that people can come in off times for bar mitzvahs, weddings and conferences.

CJN: *Are you optimistic about the future?*

Herbert: If I wasn't... it would be difficult. I'm optimistic. I see that there will be difficulties, but I believe that we'll be able to overcome them. I think, frankly, we may have to rely more heavily on the public than we have in the past.

I think there will be some hard decisions necessary in the system to ensure that organizations work more closely in order to address the needs of the people we exist to serve.

There have been difficult times. Baycrest survived the Depression, and I think the Jewish community of Toronto has a proud tradition of ensuring that its most needy members receive the care and services they require.

CJN: *Do you have any predictions about government funding, and how Baycrest will be affected?*

Herbert: I'm not sure that our economy will improve or in fact recover at the rate we would like it to, so I think that we're very likely to have to live with constraint for a long time. I don't think we're ever going to go back to the way it was. I think we have to recognize the new reality.

CJN: *How is morale around Baycrest?*

Herbert: I think there are some difficult times. People are adjusting, and we're initiating programs to try and minimize impact, and try and keep open communication with our managers and staff.

I think at Baycrest in particular, but I don't think it's just Baycrest, we've learnt how important our human resources are. The people who work at Baycrest are a remarkable group, quite committed to their clients. We have to be sensitive to their needs.

CJN: *You said that staff are "adjusting." Is that a euphemism for "unhappy?"*

Herbert: I think there probably are some who aren't happy. I think there are some who are. I think in most departments people are trying to pull together to make things better.

CJN: *What about the families?*

Herbert: It's hard to generalize. I think there are some who are very happy. I get that from letters, from phone calls. [I think there are] some who are less satisfied. They come to Baycrest with certain expectations. Some are realistic and some are not.

[Cont'd. on page 44]

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Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Business & Finance

Investment options in Israel outlined

By JASON ADELMAN

The old joke used to be that "making a small fortune in Israel required investing a large one." But with Israel's economy the fastest growing in the industrial world last year, such cynicism is giving way to a new realization that there is big money to be made in Israel.

To date, most foreign investment in Israel has been in the form of direct investment — wholly-owned subsidiaries, partnerships, and joint ventures. But a sizeable chunk (over a quarter of all foreign investment) is made through quoted securities on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE) or one of the several U.S. exchanges where Israeli shares are listed.

Last year, the TASE's Variable Index (the most reliable gauge of the market) shot up by 75 per cent, outpacing all other stock markets. After undergoing a correction in February, it has recovered nicely and now trades just over its Jan. 1 level. Trading at an average 12 times next year's earnings, and with peace and better corporate results in the offing, the market is expected to maintain its upward trend.

With all the growth potential in the Israeli market, the question arises: How can Canadians invest in Israel? The CICC looked into investment alternatives available for portfolios of under $25,000. Below is a sampling of options.

- State of Israel Bonds: For the very conservative, the State of Israel issues government bonds and sells them in Canada through Canada-Israel Securities Ltd. Bonds sell in denominations as small as $250 U.S., and range in interest rates from 4 per cent to 6 per cent. Israel bonds were recently approved for RRSP holdings.
- Shares in Israeli Companies: There are currently 46 Israeli companies listed on the big three U.S. stock exchanges. Shares in these companies can be purchased through any broker in Canada or the U.S. A wider range of options is available by investing in any of the 477 companies or 230 mutual funds traded on the TASE.
- The First Israel Fund: For investors who want to hold equity in the Israel market but want to leave the stock picking to a professional, there is the First Israel Fund. It is a closed-end mutual fund ticker symbol ISL) trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). The fund seeks long-term capital appreciation by having at least 65 per cent of its assets invested in Israeli securities. Units of the fund currently trade for about $15 U.S.
- Ampal-American Israel Corporation: Ampal is another holding company specializing in Israel stocks. Controlling interests in Ampal are held by Bank Hapoalim B.M., Israel's largest bank. Ampal and its subsidiaries are principally engaged in industrial, food processing, real estate, hotel and tourist enterprises. Shares are traded on the NYSE (ticker symbol AIS). Shares recently traded at or near $5 U.S.

Many of the above investments aim for growth in the long term, rather than steady investment income. As such, they are ideal for retirements savings which won't be redeemed for five to ten years. These Israeli investments can all be held in the foreign content portion of a self-directed RRSP.

Disclaimer: The CICC or The CJN does not endorse any of the investment instruments mentioned in this article. The information provided here is for general interest only. Please consult a qualified investment advisor to verify the suitability of these investments for your purpose.

(Reprinted from Communique, the bi-annual publication of the Canada-Israel Chamber of Commerce.)

Because you know us better than we know you ...

We need a few minutes of your time on December 16 to complete and mail back The Canadian Jewish News Reader Survey.

We need your input and your feedback.
You'll need a postage paid return envelope.
(We'll take care of that.)

The Canadian Jewish News Reader Survey.

December 16
in
The Canadian Jewish news

Stephen Herbert

[Cont'd. from page 43]

Some people we just can't make better. I don't know how to better describe that.

CJN: *What is realistic in terms of expectations?*

Herbert: That we'll do the best we can for our clients. I think most of our staff will go that extra mile.

I went to a funeral recently of someone who had passed away here, and I was surprised to see some of the staff there. I've also seen some of them at shiva houses. Our staff really form a meaningful relationship with the clients and families.

It sometimes causes problems though. I'll give you an example. There was one nurse who didn't respond [to a patient's bell] as quickly as a family member would have liked. We found out that the reason she didn't respond was that she was holding a dying patient and singing him lullabies. To me that represents what Baycrest is all about. We truly care, and we'll do whatever we can to improve the quality of life of people who come here.

CJN: *I have to ask you whether that story might mean that you don't have enough nurses at Baycrest.*

Herbert: (quietly) What's enough? Our level of staffing is higher than the standards for nursing homes and charitable homes for the aged, and we don't just rely on [nursing staff]. For example in the area of therapeutic recreation and social work, we may have more than other places, and our volunteer force is significantly greater.

CJN: *What do you think of the government's long-term health care plan?*

Herbert: I think that in a lot of ways the government's plan for long-term care reform resembles what we've been trying to do for many years at Baycrest.

CJN: *Does that mean that you think the plan is a good thing?*

Herbert: Many aspects of it [are good]. There are things that I can find fault with, but specifically, helping people remain in the community as long as possible [is good]. I think it was the late '50s when we started our first day care program to keep people in the community.

One-stop shopping for all health and personal support services. Supporting family caregivers. We've been doing that for a while.

CJN: *What aspects of the plan trouble you?*

Herbert: We're concerned the government wants to equalize standards across the province. One can look at it in two ways. One could say that they want to bring everyone up to the highest level, but the amount of funding that they're going to make available makes it clear that they will be lowering standards. We're concerned that the level and quality of services which our community has come to expect could be eroded, and that's where we may have to turn to the community.

We're also concerned that the system appropriately supports and recognizes the essential contribution made by volunteers and communities such as ours to enrich the quality of life of the elderly.

How will multicultural needs be met? We don't know exactly, because most of the aspects of Bill 101 have yet to be implemented. We do know that at best our funding will be frozen and maybe cut.

We also don't know how the new centralized placement co-ordination service will work. Will the needs of the older adults in our community to be served within a Jewish environment be respected?

CJN: *What are your thoughts on the health care system in Canada?*

Herbert: Notwithstanding some of the problems we face, I believe that we have one of the best health care systems in the world. Our health indicators position Canada favorably.

CJN: *What about the direction in which the system is heading?*

Herbert: I think we have to be cautious about not going down roads that have been travelled by other countries to find ourselves facing the same problems that have caused them to abandon that aspect of the system, so reform should recognize what is taking place in other countries and learn from it.

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Canadian plans new Israeli mega-mall

TORONTO — Canadian developer David Azrieli is planning a new Israeli mega-mall.

The father of North American-style shopping centres in Israel used a recent UJA seminar as a platform for announcing details of his latest larger-than-life project in Tel Aviv. He called it "the biggest I have ever done."

It's going to be a shopping centre, office and apartment combination in the downtown section of the city, with a unique twist. The complex will be linked from the inside to public transit, and from the outside, to the busy Ayalon highway. Although the inside mass transit connection is common in Montreal and Toronto office towers, no such facility exists in Israel.

By 1997, when the $250-million project opens, shoppers will have access to 150 stores and 300,000 square feet of retail space.

Azrieli is famous for the huge Jerusalem mall or "canion," the term he coined in Hebrew to describe such shopping complexes. But Jerusalem wasn't his first mall site. It was Beersheva in 1982 when Azrieli ignored almost universal advice to shelve his plans.

"It was the worst time in the history of Israel, with inflation running at 500 to 600 per cent and the banks collapsing," he recalled for members of his audience.

However, Azrieli persisted, with results "beyond expectations."

The Jerusalem mall, in Azrieli's words, "perhaps the biggest in the Middle East," opened this year. Popularly called Canion Malka, the centre, according to Azrieli, is doing exceptionally well, because of "up-scale purchasing power in Jerusalem."

When Tel Aviv joins Azrieli's list of supermalls, he will control more than a million square feet of leasing space. And it's not over yet. Azrieli has purchased land in Haifa for future use.

The Montreal-based president of Canpro Investments was generous with advice. His audience were members of the UJA Construction Cabinet, 1,500 professionals connected with home building, commercial development and real estate. The Cabinet has raised close to $3 million UJA dollars so far.

David Azrieli

"Young man go to Israel," he told them. "They want you there."

Behind a piece of junk mail ...

By DEBBIE LIGHTSTONE

TORONTO — Every time you throw out a handful of junk mail without a glance, you're trashing a lot of painstaking and expensive research by direct marketing firms whose business it is to help merchants snag your attention and your dollars.

Just as supermarkets and department stores are carefully and seductively designed to get shoppers to browse the maximum number of aisles and buy the maximum number of products, so too the packets of advertisements deposited in your mailbox.

A recent seminar organized by the Retail Council of Canada and sponsored by Canada Post instructed a group of business people, selling everything from women's lingerie to health foods, how to successfully target prospective customers through both mail and non-addressed flyers.

Speaker Alan Ludlow of BMR Communications, an Ottawa-based direct marketing firm, made it clear there's an art and a science to delivering a merchant's message effectively.

"You can't sell a Porsche by direct mail. But the company still has an excellent direct mail program. They might figure, for example, that for every car they sell they can afford to spend $5,000 in advertising. As a strategy to get selected people in the showroom, they might send out an invitation to test-drive a Porsche, using a postcard designed with the individual's name on a licence plate," Ludlow explained.

A lot of thought goes into the appearance of what many people dismiss as junk mail.

"Direct mail marketing should be like a letter from your mother: the more personal, the better," Ludlow said.

The size of the envelope, its weight and color, what's written on the outside, all are designed to entice the recipient to tear it open. Once they've done that, the letter inside has attractive graphics, inviting text, personal names and supposedly effective words like "new," "free," "save," "win" and "guarantee."

However, as Ludlow pointed out, no matter how enticing the mailing, people with four children and a big mortgage are not likely to buy a fancy sports car. That's where specific targetting comes in: the need to build a customer database, a list of names, addresses and information about past and potential customers.

That list is the cornerstone of advertising by mail and there are list brokers who rent everything from *Sports Illustrated* subscription lists to the Gerber Baby Foods list, enabling merchants to zero in on specific groups of people.

According to Ludlow, a company must position its product or service, by asking: 'How do people view me today, and how do I want them to view me tomorrow?'

Often a product is "repositioned" in order to appeal to new groups, (e.g. gardening has been "repositioned" as good exercise to sell its products to fitness-conscious and older people).

He noted that in more affluent times, products responded to people's "prestige and esteem needs," whereas in today's recessionary climate, "safety and security needs have taken over."

Ludlow told the audience that selling to different groups requires learning their characteristics. He cited marketing research that has identified several generations of consumers according to their financial resources and attitudes.

For instance, so-called "challengers," aged 30 to 45, are labelled as "educated, idealistic, the rock 'n' roll generation (Trudeau and Kennedy), concerned about their health and the environment, into self-help and self-fulfillment, self-indulgent, who seek information before purchasing."

So-called "transitioners," 45 to 60, are defined as "prosperous, high income, war babies, empty nesters or with boomerang kids (older children who have returned home), caring for older parents, brand loyal (Chrysler man), who buy from their childhood heroes."

The seminar was sponsored by Canada Post, which in recent years has expanded dramatically into the direct mail business. Its letter carriers and flyer distribution forces can send advertising material across the country or to a neighborhood as small and specific as one postal worker's route.

To illustrate what it can do, Canada Post handed out a kit explaining how its Admail — advertising delivered through the mail — system works.

The kit spotlighted several forward sortation areas (known in the business as FSAs — the first three digits a postal code) in west Toronto, and analyzed their demographic and socio-economic traits.

According to their data, if your postal code begins with L6J, your household is typically "maturing, highly educated, with high home ownership and extremely high incomes."

Therefore, says the Admail brochure, the kinds of goods and services that would likely be of interest to this population include interior decoration and investment counselling, travel agents and upscale automobiles.

It suggests that fund-raising drives and the arts, galleries and theatres, would also benefit by targetting this area.

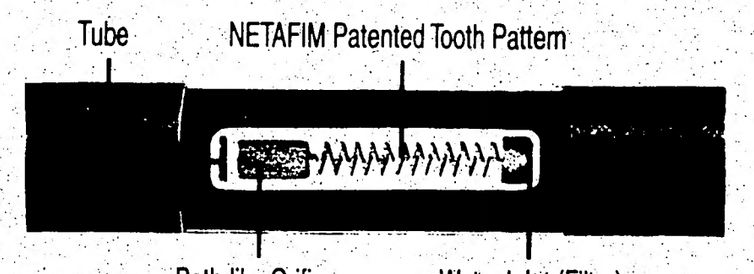
On the other hand, Canada Post warns, do-it-yourself centres, furniture warehouse advertising and supermarket specials would probably be of limited interest to the people living in this postal code area.

Innovative drip irrigation system

KIBBUTZ HATZERIM — An innovative drip irrigation system has been developed by Israeli manufacturer Netafim.

Called the Typhoon integral drip-perline, the system is clog-resistant. It can be used to remove agricultural and garden waste water, and in industrial applications such as flushing lead in mines.

The Typhoon's rubber tubes have a labyrinth "toothed" water passage which facilitates superior filtration. This allows optimal flow and prevents blocking and variations in water pressure which make other systems inefficient.



Netafim invested $6 million in developing the Typhoon.

The Typhoon is durable and protected from damage by insects, fertilizers and chemicals. The use of sophisticated computer-controlled injection machines in the manufacturing process ensures accuracy.

Netafim's sales of irrigation equipment and drip systems total more than $60 million annually, including more than $40 million for export.

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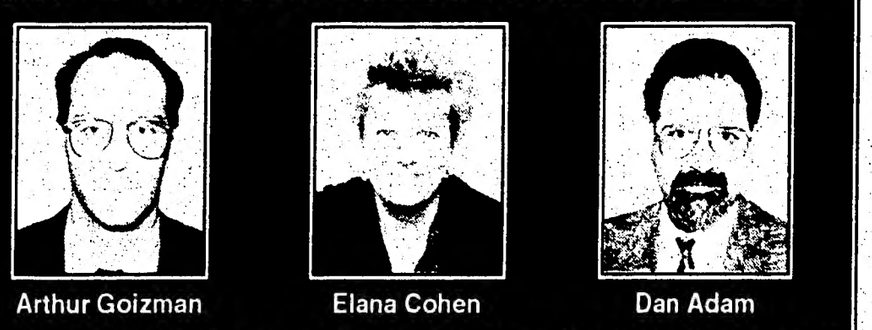
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5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR

BAYVIEW-STEELES — AMONG MILLION $ HOMES
Magnificent 4 bdrm, huge fam. rm, library, just $729,000! *Helen Winer 764-7200

BAYVIEW-16TH — JUST LISTED, OVER 4,000'
4 bdrms, fam. room, library, custom finishings, 3 car garage, 2 storey foyer. *M. & C. Green 764-7200

BATHURST-CENTRE "EXCLUSIVE 5 BDRM" NOW $499K
Luxury on sought after street, white kit, hdwd, cathedral foyer & fin. bsmt. Shows well! *A. Halpern 764-7200

BATHURST-CENTRE — WALK TO SHUL!
3,680' on child proof court, 4 bdrms, fam rm, library, 2 storey foyer, reduced to sell! *M. & C. Green 764-7200

CENTRE-BATHURST — WON'T LAST!
Huge 5 bdrm, greenhouse kit, library, fam. room, f/place, parquet & marble floors. **J. Salomon 764-7200

YONGE-ARNOLD CUSTOM BUILT
5+2 bdrms, Scarlett O'Hara staircase, huge kit, w/o deck, pegged oak floors +++ **J. Salomon 764-7200

3 NATHAN COURT — UNBELIEVABLE VALUE!
4 bdrms + main floor library, appls, ceramics, hdwd floors, on fantastic court! *S. Schwartzman 764-7200

ROSEDALE NORTH — GREAT LOCATION, BETTER PRICE!
$344,900 over 2,800', quiet cres. loaded, *A. Halpern 764-7200

BATHURST-CHABAD GATE — IMMACULATE!
Upgraded 4 bdrm, white kit, income bsmt. apt. *S. Tamin 764-7200

1ST AD — BATHURST & CHABAD ONLY $309K
Immaculate 4 bdrm, 2 storey, grey/white decor, large family room, original owner! *A. Halpern 764-7200

135 YORK HILL BLVD. $307,000
Gorgeous 4 bdrm over 2,300', fin. bsmt, sauna, appls, white/grey decor, motivated! *A. Sidofsky 764-7200

BATHURST-STEELES ASKING $298,900!
About 2,600', main fl. family, skylight, 4 large bdrms, backs onto park, walk to TTC & schools. *L. Kogan 764-7200

BATHURST-MILNER GATE — NEUTRAL DECOR!
4 bdrms beauty! White kit, loaded! *S. Tamin 764-7200

LESLIE-GREEN LANE — PRICED TO SELL!
4 bdrms, fin. bsmt, quiet court, motivated! *N. Shore 764-7200

BATHURST-CENTRE ULTRA LUXURY!
2,000', 4 bdrms, 3 baths, end unit Townhome, main laundry, walk-in garage, award winning complex. *M. Green 764-7200

EXCLUSIVE — BATHURST-CENTRE $269,900
4 bdrms, 1 yr new, pie shaped lot, never lived in. *G. Schneider 764-7200

BATHURST-SHEPPARD — IMMACULATE BUNGALOW
White kit, hardwood, ceramics, f/place. *S. Rovet 764-7200

BATHURST-STEELES DETACHED $234,900!
4 bdrms, 3 baths, sunken family rm + f/place, master has sitting room, about 2,100'. *M. & C. Green 764-7200

CENTRE-WESTMOUNT — SUPER PRICE!
Large 2 storey townhome, large fam. room + marble f/place, upgraded designer kit ++ *K. Salomon 764-7200

BATHURST-CHABAD — FREEHOLD TOWNHOME
1st ad! Upgraded 3 bdrm, huge fenced lot, remodelled kit, family room + f/place. **M. Povering 764-7200

CONDOMINIUMS

BAYVIEW-GREEN LANE "LANDMARK III"
Beautiful corner suite 1,626', 2 bdrms, sol. large kit, priced $40,000 below builders asking! *P. Weber 764-7200

BATHURST-STEELES "PRIMROSE 2"
Largest south corner unit, sunny kit, modern bath, demand bldg, great view! **B. Kogan 764-7200

BATHURST-CLARK "CONSERVATORY" $209,900
Large corner unit, huge kit, balcony, large master bdrm, ensuite, bright kitchen, don't miss! *L. Kogan 764-7200

BATHURST-FINCH-STEELES $179,900
2 bdrm condo, huge living/dining room. *Helen Winer 764-7200

CLARK-HILDA "CONSERVATORY" SHOWS GREAT!
Fab. 2 bdrm, upgraded kit, motivated! *S. Tamin 764-7200

FINCH-YONGE $164,888
2 bdrm condo + parking — gorgeous! *G. Schneider 764-7200

BATHURST-CLARK — PRICED FOR QUICK SALE!
Lux. 2 bdrm, 2 baths over 1,255', low floor, ens. laundry. *M. & C. Green 764-7200

BATHURST-STEELES ONLY $163,900!
1,250', large living, solarium, 2 baths, parquet fls, white kit., south view, must sell quick! **B. Kogan 764-7200

RENTAL

PENTHOUSE "CONSERVATORY" $1,875/MONTH
1 year lease, lux. 2 bdrm, about 2,100', marble foyer & baths, upgraded throughout! *A. Halpern 764-7200

*Sales Representative **Associate Broker

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EXCLUSIVE! BATHURST/BEVERLEY GLEN BLVD.
App. 2600 sq. ft., 4 bdrms., den, fam. rm., white kit. w/3 skylights, cathedral ceiling at front, main flr. laundry w/entrance from garage, parquet floors, dusty rose broadloom, jacuzzi and separate shower in ensuite in master bdrm., ceramic floors and backsplashes! Won't last! Call Polina Brener or Irit Cohen, Sales Representatives, 771-7100.

BATHURST/STEELES
1600 sq. ft. townhouse – The Casitas. 3 br., fully upgraded, fin. bsmt., under. park. Call Ken Wilder, Sales Rep., 771-7100.

BATHURST/STEELES – $197,900
2 storey, 3 br., brick, w/o from kit. to fenced yard & patio. Close to TTC, amenities. Call Rik Birken, Sales Rep., 771-7100.

YONGE/LAWRENCE
Immaculate, charming 2 storey det. 3 bdrm. on quiet street. Excellent value. Call Jacob Florans, Sales Rep., 771-7100.

BATHURST/LAWRENCE
2 bdrm. bung. on 50' lot. Great starter home! Complete appt. w/ sep. entrance. Call Jacob Florans, Sales Rep., 771-7100.

BATHURST/FINCH
Savoy Towers, 2 bedrooms, 2 parking spots, locker. Call Bea Berman, Sales Representative, 771-7100.

BATHURST/CENTRE – EXCLUSIVE!
5 bdrms. on quiet court. Hdwd. floors throughout, l/r, d/r, entry hall, huge kitchen with w/o to yard. Prof. fin. bsmt w/ 3 more bdrms + rec. room. 4 baths. Oversized lot on the park. Walk to public and private schools. Only $459,000. Call 771-7100.

BATHURST/STEELES
Primrose I, luxury corner unit, approx. 1412 sq. ft., extra-large liv. room, solarium and balcony, 2 bdrms., 2 baths + more! Call Irit Cohen or Polina Brener, Sales Representatives, 771-7100.

BATHURST/STEELES
Beautiful, raised sidesplit in Bathurst Village, 4 bdrms., double garage, fam. room, white kitchen, more, more! Call Polina Brener or Irit Cohen, Sales Representatives, 771-7100.

DUFFERIN/STEELES
$204,900 – 2 storey, 3 bdrm., finished bsmt., 4 washrooms. Call Bea Berman, Sales Representative., 771-7100.

BATHURST/CENTRE/ATKINSON
Best price in area. Perfect home for first-time buyer. Quiet cul-de-sac. Prof. fin. bsmt. w/ sauna and shower. Income potential. Call Ken Wilder, Sales Representative, 771-7100.

SACRIFICE SALE $245,000
Bayview/Steeles detached, 2 car garage, 60'x150' lot, priced to sell! Call Allen Civil, Sales Representative, 771-7100.

3000 BATHURST ST.
Upgraded luxurious and spacious condo, 2nd floor, not facing Bathurst, 24 hr. sec. Call Jacob Florans, Sales Rep., 771-7100.

YONGE/CLARK/SKYRISE
Large luxury 2 bdrm. condo, about 1570 sq. ft., west. exposure. Call Larry or Howard Berman, Sales Reps, 771-7100.

STEELES/BATHURST – THE COURTLANDS
Gorgeous suite, 1500 sq. ft., 2 bdrms., 2 baths, eat-in-kitchen, fam. rm., fireplace, solarium, ensuite laundry, 2 parking spots. Call Bea Berman, Sales Representative, 771-7100.

BATHURST/YONGE /FINCH/STEELES
1, 2, + 3 bdrm. condos, your choice. Anxious vendors. Call Joseph Soer, Sales Representative, 771-7100.

NORTH OFFICE 771-7100

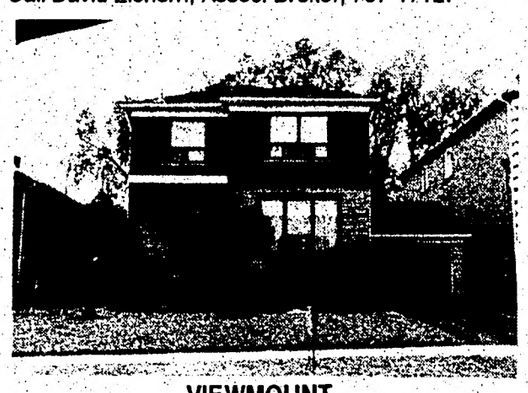
A STEAL ON PATRICE!
Excellent opportunity for 1st time buyer! 3 bdrm. detached all brick house! Large new white kit., parquet floor in liv & din., fin. bsmt. w/ 3pc. bath, rec. room and bdrm. Cent. air, more, more! Call Irit Cohen or Polina Brener, Sales Reps, 771-7100.

BATHURST/FOREST WOOD
3 bdrm. bung. with bsmt. apt. on 45' lot in excl. location. Asking $299,000. Call Jacob Florans, Sales Rep., 771-7100.

CENTRAL OFFICE 787-1712

HILLMOUNT
Prestige + luxury! Brand new custom home! Approx. 4200 sq. ft.! Loaded with upgrades. Asking $799,000. Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.

BATHURST/HILLHURST CONDO
A rare find! 2,500 sq. ft. of luxury, custom renovated & decorated. One suite per floor, wrap-around balcony. Call now! Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.



VIEWMOUNT
4 bdrm., 2 storey, shows well! Eat-in kit., new bath, 50x140 lot, fabulous location near schools, shopping, TTC. Call now! Only $369,000. Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.

COLDSTREAM/REDUCED
Best deal in area! 3 bdrm., huge kit., fin. bsmt., 46'x133' lot, only $239,000. Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.

VIEWMOUNT
3 bdrm. bung. on 50'x140' lot, prime location for new home! Only $329,000. Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.

DELL PARK
Detached bungalow on 50' lot, finished basement, only $239,000. Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.

HILLMOUNT
50'x137' lot, well maintained 3 bdrm., spacious kitchen, asking $359,000. Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.

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NORTH

THE BRIDLE PATH — 6.3 ACRES
$6,800,000. An exquisitely restored French Chateau on a park-like setting. Pool/tennis ct. Please call E. Kalles* 441-2888.

OUTSTANDING BARONIAL ESTATE
Exquisite detail & finest of finishes, pool and many other features. $3,900,000. Please call Wendy Azzarello* 441-2888.

TUDOR GATE MANSION
$3,500,000. An unforgettable home, magnificent detailing & breathtaking gardens. Pool. Please call E. Kalles* 441-2888.

ALDERBROOK — APPROX. 1 ACRE
$995,000. Much admired picturesque setting. Renovate or build your dream home. Please call Elise Kalles** 441-2888.

GREAT FAMILY HOME
$589,000. 5 bdrm., shows to perfection, greenhouse, fin. lower level. Please call R. Saks*/N. Fruitman* 441-2888.

CENTRAL

LOWER VILLAGE — PRICE SLASHED
Now $1,475K. E/Spadina best buy. Gorgeous 6 BR, huge lot, pool. New kitchen. M. Alberga*/S. Stern* 441-2888.

NOW $1,390,000
Elegantly restored 5 bdrms., 5 bath, Old Forest Hill Rd. Tudor home. Stunning 3rd flr. pad. Please call Elise Kalles* 441-2888.

BLOOR/AVE. RD. CONDO — REDUCED!
$475,000! Best buy in building. Luxurious, 2,075'. 2 bdrms., 3 baths, gorgeous view! Please call M. Alberga*/S. Stern* 441-2888.

OTTER CR.! 4+1 BR! NOW $399K!
Wow! Priced for immed. sale! Deep 152' country lot! Mn. flr. fam. rm., white kit. Please call Sandon Schwartzben* 441-2888.

1ST AD! BATHURST/GLENCAIRN!
Super 50x134 corner lot! Build or renovate! Fab. location! (Also for rent.) Please call Sandon Schwartzben* 441-2888.

BATHURST/GLENCAIRN! $309K!
Priced to sell! Fab cen[SOLD]reno! 3+1 BR, 3 bths, mn. flr. fam. rm, gorgeous l[SOLD]ease call Sandon Schwartzben* 441-2888.

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ARMOUR HEIGHTS. $465,000. Drastic reduction. Gorgeous 4 bdrm., mn. flr. den, fin. bsmnt., modern kitch., country setting, on Sandringham Dr. cul-de-sac.

BATHURST MANOR $299,900. Good income. Lg. triplex. Fully rented. 2x3 bd., 1x1 bd.

BAYVIEW-MILLWOOD. $365,000. Lg. duplex, 2 bd. on ea. flr., extra in-law apt. in bsmnt. Good income, good potential.

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CENTRAL PROPERTIES

BRAND NEW — RUSSELL HILL ROAD!!!
French Regency show stopper, 4+1 bdrm, 4 bath; granite/marble +++ Linda Reitapple* 488-2875

NEW PRICE! ELEGANCE ON DUNVEGAN
Grant princp rms, 6 bdrms, updated, 2 car gar, pool, CAC. Lovely! Maurice Gherson* 488-2875

QUIET STREET! ACROSS ARDWOLD GT.
$1,295,000 Overlooking ravine! Breathtaking entertaining home! Cathy Kwinter* 488-2875

CEDARVALE TUDOR — BETTER THAN NEW
$895,000 Mn flr den lovely [SOLD]sitting & dressing areas. Pvt. gdn., Eleanor Wagman* 488-2875

$895,000 TOTAL RENO MASTERPIECE
Unsurpassed quality! Unique layout. Master ste with family rm on 2nd. Cathy Kwinter* 488-2875

BEAUTIFUL BRAND NEW GEORGIAN!!
Still time to choose your finishes!! Excellent value $850,000 Mr. Chisholm*/Mr. Tobe** 488-2875

REDUCED — YORK MILLS/LESLIE $679,900
Executive 5 yr new, 5 bdrm, 3 baths on second, jacuzzi, marble, must sell! Rhoda Blass* 416-226-1987

MOORE PARK! EXCELLENT VALUE!!
Beautiful 3 storey centre hall: 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 car gar. $639,000 Mr. Chisholm* 488-2875

WHY LIVE ANYWHERE BUT CORTLEIGH?
For $589,000! Great house, great price. 4 large bdrms. C. Hall 50' lot! Jeffrey Wagman** 488-2875

AVENUE/LAWR. INCREDIBLE VALUE &
Finishes! Best 4 br as new in area. Granite kit. 2 F'pl, cac +. Maurice Gherson* 488-2875

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2,650 Sq. ft. with all the bells & whistles, no GST! 4 bdrm, mn fl. family, Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

PRIME CEDARVALE RENOVATED!
Mn flr family rm., 5 br bright & sunny rms, reno'd rec rm. $549,000 Call David Wagman* 488-2875

1ST AD UPPER VILLAGE $495,000
Spacious 4 bdrm, 2 bath - mn flr fam rm, 2 firepls, lovely quiet st. Call Cathy Himelfarb* 488-2875

EXCLUSIVE — 1 JOSEPHINE RD
Clanton Park 3,000 sq ft of luxury, 4 bdrm, 4 baths, main flr family & laundry, mint cond. Goldie Kay* 416-226-1987

WANT TOTAL RENO IN CEDARVALE?
$379,000 Buys you a 3 bdrm 2 sty marble bath fin bsmt, new windows++. Jeffrey Wagman** 488-2875

UPPER FOREST HILL — ALLEN & EGLINTON
"Homes & Gardens" renovation — 3 bdrm, 2 storey, fin bsmt, 4 car parking. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

DUFFERIN & ST. CLAIR MUST SELL!
Partially demolished/reconstructed home, great location, 24 x 120 ft lot. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

17 CONNAUGHT CIRCLE — REDUCED!!
Great 3 bdrm, 2 bth, sol w/o to pool, cac, nr subway, Cedarvale Park. Rosalie Roebuck* 488-2875

BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS NOW $266,900
4 bdrm townhome, 2½ baths, 5 appls, fin bsmt, prime complex, value+ Donna Weiser*/Jim Maguire* 416-226-1987

BLOOR/CHRISTIE — DETACHED $259,000
2 storey reno, Old World charm, 2 kitchens w/artists studio, double garage. D. Weiser*/J. Maguire* 416-226-1987

HILLCREST VILLAGE VALUE
Rate 4 bdrm unit — updated mechs sep side entr to fin bsmt. Good value. Bonnie Singer* 488-2875

REDUCED AGAIN! BATHURST & ST. CLAIR
Delightful dollhouse! 3 bdrm., fin-bsmt, legal front pad parking. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

PRICED TO SELL! BATHURST & COLLEGE
Immaculate 3 bdrm townhome, bright end unit, feels like a bsmt. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

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NORTH PROPERTIES

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$799-$899 Custom built home on ½ acre lot. GST included! Last lot! Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

CUL DE SAC LOT/STOUFFVILLE/LESLIE
Premium lot in prestigious estate area, priced to sell! Bring an offer. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

4 BEDROOM TOWNHOUSE ONLY $194,500
Eat in kitchen, w/o from dining rm, fin bsmt w/nanny's rm, best buy. Russell Pearsall* 488-2875

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

FOREST HILL VILLAGE PENTHOUSE
2 bdrm, 2 bath, view to lake, sec bldg, walk to shops & subway. To view Susan Slater* 488-2875

150 HEATH ST. WEST!! CONDO #502!!
Beautiful 2 bdrm, 2 full baths. Solarium 2 parking spots. $429,000 George Chisholm* 488-2875

66 COLLIER ST. LUXURIOUS CONDO!
$395,000, 1,800 ft o'looking ravine gourmet kit ens bath w/sauna, marble flrs. E. Pike* 488-2875

SKYMARK — THE ZENITH CORNER!
$279,900 2 bdrm + family room, modern kitchen! Marble foyer! Extras! Marty Wagman** 416-226-1987

HEMISPHERES — FABULOUS RENO
Largest unit in bldg, estate sale, vendor says sell! Unbelievable. Bonnie Singer* 488-2875

HEMISPHERES — PENTHOUSE GREAT VALUE
3 bdrm, new ceramics & brdlm tons of storage space. Solarium off kit. Bonnie Singer* 488-2875

BATHURST/ANTIBES TOWNHOUSE
Spacious 2 storey, 3 bdrm, 3 baths, well located complex! $164,900 Fran London* 416-226-1987

YORK MILLS — 2 BDRM CONDO $99,900
South exp, mint condition, balcony & ensuite laundry, 4 appls & more! J. Maguire*/D. Weiser* 416-226-1987

WEST PROPERTIES

PRICED TO SELL! CALEDONIA & EGLINTON
25 x 118 ft. Charming 2 bdrm bungalow with pot. in-law suite, must sell! Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

POWER OF SALE — INDUSTRIAL CONDO
Derry Rd/Bramalea Rd 2,546 sq ft unit in prime location, 17' ceiling. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

*Sales Representative
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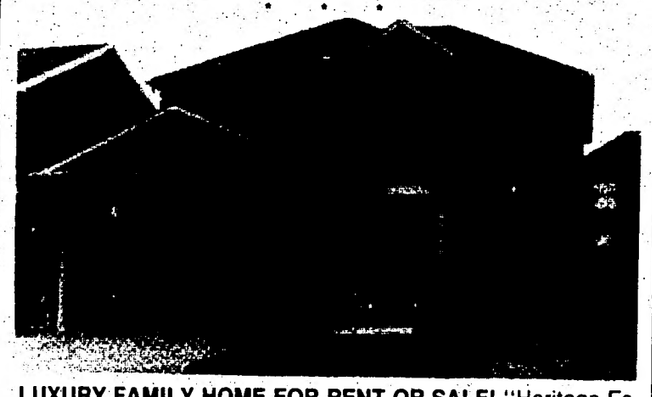
STRATHALLAN-WOOD — NEW LISTING!
$749,000 — Elegant, centre-hall, 5 BR, 5 baths, den, gorgeous treed lot, double garage. Fabulous location — a rare find!
RUTH HALPERIN Re/Max Ultimate Rlty Inc. RLTR. 487-5131

Signature Realty Limited Realtor

THORNHILL MAGNIFICENT! 2 storey 4 bdrm 3 bath dble garage central air cvac large lot *BILL SILVERSTEIN



LUXURY FAMILY HOME FOR RENT OR SALE! "Heritage Estates" over 3,200 sq. ft. + fin bsmt prof decorated hardwood ceramics large deck Much Much More! *DARLENE WRONZBERG

THORNHILL BEAUTY 3 bdrms + prof fin bsmt 1st time buyers don't miss this brand new white lacq. kit freshly painted ceramics silver grey brdlm great location close to all amenities. *BRENDA HOROVITCH

FANTASTIC LOCATION! PRIME ROSEDALE NORTH 4 bdrms prof fin bsmt with nanny's quarters large kit quiet cresc. close to everything! Lovely home motivated vendor! *BRENDA HOROVITCH

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PRICED RIGHT! SHOW & SELL this lovely well kept home in Bath/Centre area of Thornhill 4 bdrms 3 baths close to schools, Promenade Mall: etc. **PAUL JAMESON

STUNNING EXECUTIVE 4 BDRM HOME Best value in area main flr laundry beautifully landscaped Don't miss it! *BECKY WENER

SPACIOUS FAMILY HOME IN RICHMOND HILL 4+1 bdrms 3 baths main flr fam rm with fp deck prof landscaped Motivated vendor *BRENDA STERN-WESTBROOK

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South East corner of Bathurst & Steeles

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Sales Representative

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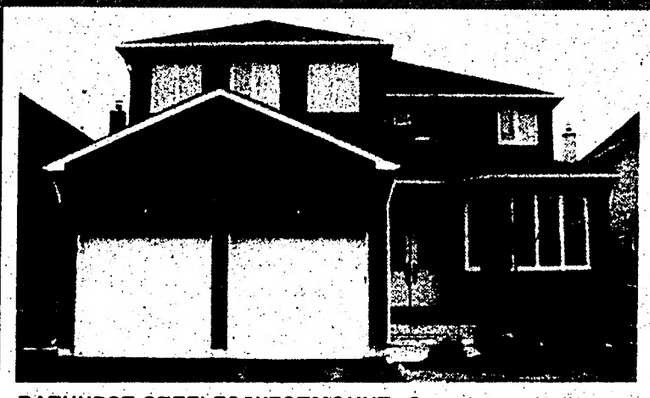

BATHURST-STEELES/WESTMOUNT. Greenhouse Hollywood kitch., sep. mn. flr. conservatory. $379,000. Ted Waxman, 731-7111.

BATHURST-STEELES. Immaculate 3+1 bdrm., sunken liv. rm., fin. bsmnt., huge lot. $247,900. Dillon Jones, 731-7111.

BATHURST-STEELES — Spac. 4 bdrm., sep. in-law apt., dble gar. $269,000 Jerry Potok, 731-7111.

BATHURST-PATRICIA. 4 bdrm. backsplit, bsmnt. apt., lg. lot, extras, $289,000. Gary Hazin/Lucy Melamud, 731-7111.

BAYVIEW-STEELES. Custom 5 bdrm., cul-de-sac, huge lot, circ, drive, a dream! $699,000. Ted Waxman, 731-7111.

BATHURST MANOR. Spacious 2 bdrm. bung., hdwd. flrs., bsmt. apt., huge lot. $259,900. Paula Bernstein, 731-7111.

BATHURST-WOODLAND ACRES. Magnificent ranch-style bung. on gorgeous 1.3 acre lot. W/o bsmt., $799,000. Lucy Melamud 731-7111.

BATHURST/WILSON. 2 str., 3 bd., Hanover kit., updated, fin. bsmt. $289,900. Gabby Goldring, 731-7111.

BATHURST-WILSON. 3 bdrm. master ensuite bung., huge fam. rm. addition, lg. lot, walk to shul. Marilyn Ray, $329,000. 731-7111.

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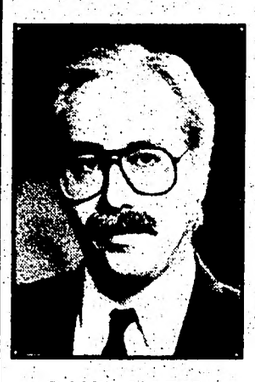

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SKYMARK CLASSIC: Exclusive updated 2 b.r. + sol. + window kit. + outdoor balc., 2½ baths. Vendor moving out of town. Priced well. For our updated inventory call Mr. Santee Leung **THE SKYMARK SPECIALIST,** 441-2003/24 hrs. on call, carphone + pager. **SANTEE REALTY INC.**

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35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

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GIDEON WAICHENBERG
115 Antibes Dr. 2 bdrm., 2 bth., approx. 1,400 s.f., huge balc., hdwd., 5 appls., $129,000. Re/Max Vista Realty, 520-5700. Gideon.

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40 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE/ RENT

3000 Bathurst S Lawrence 2 bed 2 bath East view immaculate cond. 444-8461 or 756-0594

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highrise
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Sheppard/Bathurst furn. Bright apartment in upscale condo. 1 bed+den 2 baths, pool pkg. Dec. 1. $975 all inc. 444-4813

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Hallandale Beach- Hemispheres, 1 bdr. magnificently renovated, beautiful view, completely furnished. Don't pay rent. Only $84,900 1-305-929-GIGI. Call before 10 a.m. & after 8 p.m.

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125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

Hallandale- "Hemispheres" Penthouse- Bay No. bldg. - 1/1-completely furn. fab. views-u.s.$72,000 Call (416)449-5096

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

Aventura. Newly furn. 2b/2b. Pool. Overlooks golf course. Top floor (8th). Seasonal, 5 mo. min., 2 year term, $1,200/ mo.u.s Call 733-9767 after 7.

Golden Isles Drive 2bdrm/ 2 bath Jan. & Feb. 482-9994 or 485-2597 message.

Hallandale 2bed 2 bath on ocean. Adult ... nonsmrks. Avail Jan9 RENTED Min. 6 weeks. $700/week. 222-1040

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Longboat Quay Sarasota Lux. 3 bed grdn apt. Very prvt clubhouse, tennis crts, full social and sports privilidges. On the beach. Avail Jan.1, 1994.2 mos. mini. (813) 383-7302

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Pompano Beach, 2 bdrm, 2 bath. Close to beach. 881-1432.

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135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

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150 FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION

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160 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR RENT

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260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

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270 PERSONALS

Gentlemen Are you interested in theatre, dining, cinemas, small social gatherings, etc. and are between the ages of 50-65? We invite you to reply to this ad. Box 6118 CJN

Mah Jong players wanted in the Leslie/ Bayview Finch/ Steeles area. Call 225-0772

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Handsome Jewish man 43 5'10 170 lbs. educated, intelligent, courteous, financially secure seeking young, attractive, affectionate, romantic, Jewish female for starting a family. Please write with photo to Stuart P.O. Box 341662 Los Angeles, Calif. 90034 USA

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Genuine mensch, divorced, young early 60s wishes to meet SJF counterpart for friendship++ Box 6005 CJN

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280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shomer Shabbos lady required for Chevra Kadisha. Call Mrs. Fishberg at 663-9060.

300 ARTICLES FOR SALE

Antique prints, crafts etc. Sunday Dec. 5,12th 11-3p.m.at 365 Fairlawn Ave. /Avenue Rd.

Brand names of aerobic & streetwear clothing at cost prices. Call 225-0772

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305 ARTICLES WANTED

Quality antiques, contents and estates, furniture, rugs, china and silver, paintings, bronze, etc. 833-6710 or 222-5839.

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late Robert Beil will take place Sunday Dec. 5 at 11a.m at Pardes Shalom Memorial Park.

330 OBITUARIES

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Make a tax-deductible donation to the charity of your choice, and have it billed automatically to your telephone number. (416/905 callers only.)
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18020 Canadian Fdn. for AIDS Research
18022 Canadian Breast Cancer Fdn.
18023 FCC Children with Cancer
18026 Cdn. Assoc. for Community Living
18027 Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Fdn.
18030 Canadian Diabetes Association
18033 Canadian Liver Foundation
18034 Canadian Mental Health Assoc.
18039 Cerebral Palsy Ontario
18040 Crohn's & Colitis Fdn. of Canada
18050 Juvenile Diabetes Fdn. of Canada
18055 Multiple Sclerosis Soc. of Canada
18057 Muscular Dystrophy Assoc. of Cda.
18060 Ontario Cancer Institute
18064 Parkinson Fdn. of Canada
18067 Schizophrenia Society of Canada
18075 The Salvation Army
18078 United Church, Mission & Service
18079 Victorian Order of Nurses
18080 Baycrest Centre Foundation
18081 Distress Centre/Survivor Support
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18083 Jewish Family and Child Service
18084 Mount Sinai Hospital
18085 Princess Margaret Hospital
18090 Sunnybrook Health Science Centre
18095 Toronto Hospital Foundations
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18181 B'nai Brith Women of Canada
18185 Israel Cancer Research Fund
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18192 Jewish Community Centre

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Besser, Annie on November 17, 1993, late of Baycrest
Bester, Simon on November 18, 1993, late of 80 Antibes Dr #1408
Book, Anna on November 20, 1993, late of Baycrest
Feferman, Sol on November 18, 1993, late of Lincoln Place Nursing Home
Jaeger, Solly on November 17, 1993, late of 194 Linden Ave.
Miller, Abraham on November 21, 1993
Miskevich, Semyon on November 16, 1993
Mudrik, Ruth on November 15, 1993, late of 126 Searle Ave.
Puhlik, Ilia on November 16, 1993, late of 2 Parsons Place
Rottenberg, Louis Paul on November 21, 1993
Sherman, Stanley on November 20, 1993
Zimmerman, Anna on November 21, 1993

Steeles-College Memorial Chapel

Gilda Torno on Nov 4/93, late of 15 Shallmar Blvd. #708
Mary Burnett on Nov 4/93, late of 15 Heathcote Avenue

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument
to the memory of the late
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Sunday, December 5th, at 11:00 a.m.
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London shul honors cantor

By SYLVIA PAPERNICK

LONDON — At a recent celebration honoring Cantor Joseph Frieman of Congregation Or Shalom, the story of how he came to the synagogue 25 years ago seemed to show the move was bashert.

Freiman was living in Montreal in 1968 when he applied for the job at Congregation Or Shalom. Driving through London on a pleasure trip to Windsor, he auditioned for several hours before the hiring committee. The rest, as they say, is history. He and wife Eva soon became part of the congregational family.

Born in Satumare, Romania, in 1924, Freiman came from a musical family: three of his brothers went on to become cantors. Freiman studied with a well-known Romanian cantor, Cantor Rivel, and in Bratislava before the war. During the war he was interned in four camps, but he always sang to his fellow prisoners.

When the war ended, he moved to Italy to begin his professional cantorial career. He was to eventually make his way to Argentina and then Uruguay, where he met and married Eva. Their two children, Lily and Gabriel, were born in Uruguay. The family immigrated to Canada in 1967.

Late last month, over 550 people attended a service and luncheon at Congregation Or Shalom to pay tribute to Freiman. Freiman has taught 250 bar and bat mitzvah students, sometimes officiating at their weddings and their children's brit milot and baby namings.

Always known for his patient manner, he said he didn't want the children to struggle. "I went through a lot of hardship in my life."

With Eva, Freiman used to open their home to new members for a Shabbat meal. "It's a pity I didn't have a guest book," Eva joked.

Budget cuts affect police

By BEN ROSE

TORONTO —Metro Police, facing a $32 million cut to their budget, may not even be able to go to the scenes of robberies in the future, Metro Councillor Norm Gardner said here recently.

The cut in funds and number of officers may mean a system of "alternate policing" under which police could not respond to every robbery call, and the victim would have to file his own report to police, Gardner said.

Cuts in police strength are so serious that there might not even be 500 police officers working in all of Metro at any given time, he said, and there are days when 50 police cars do not leave the parking lot because there is no one to operate those cars. At times, only six officers patrol areas with more than 150,000 residents.

The North York councillor, recently re-elected to the Metro Police Commission, gave the keynote adress to a conference on Safety in the Community sponsored by the Association of Jewish Seniors (AJS) attended by 200 at Pride of Israel Synagogue.

"We don't feel as safe as we did," said Al Gorlick, co-moderator of the conference, sponsored by the AJS, an umbrella group which represents 5,000 people in 20 member groups. Representatives of school, court and penal systems also spoke. Evelyn Shulman was co-moderator.

Gardner said seniors "are one of the most vulnerable target groups of young criminals.

"In the past six or seven years, we have seen our provincial government handcuff police more and more," he said. "This has created a situation where many police think twice about a pro-active involvement on their part. They will play it safe, and unfortunately, the benefit will go to the criminals who will have much more flexibility to operate.

"In terms of appointments, it appears that substantial number of provincial government appointments to police service boards require not a degree of objectivity and fairness, but anti-police, anti-institutional attitudes combined with high egos, and no experience in management or human relations and the attempt to exercise their ideas upon highly trained competent professional police executives."

Another problem is the "devastating" effect on police morale of media reports blaming police in shooting cases. "Police must stay quiet under the regulations and the presumption is that they are guilty," Gardner said.

"There is no excuse for people getting breaks if they commit crimes. The government is giving more consideration to criminals than to victims."

Illegal drugs are the engine that drives 75 percent of the crime in the city, he said. "Drug dealers can buy power, influence the judiciary and finance terrorism."

Other speakers included Elsa Chandler, chair, North York Board of Education, Eleanor Johnstone, Ontario Censor Board, Cheryl Mahyr, probation and parole officer, Judge Lauren Marshall, Brian Welsh, case management officer, and Dianne MacInnis, abuse co-ordinator, Metro Police.

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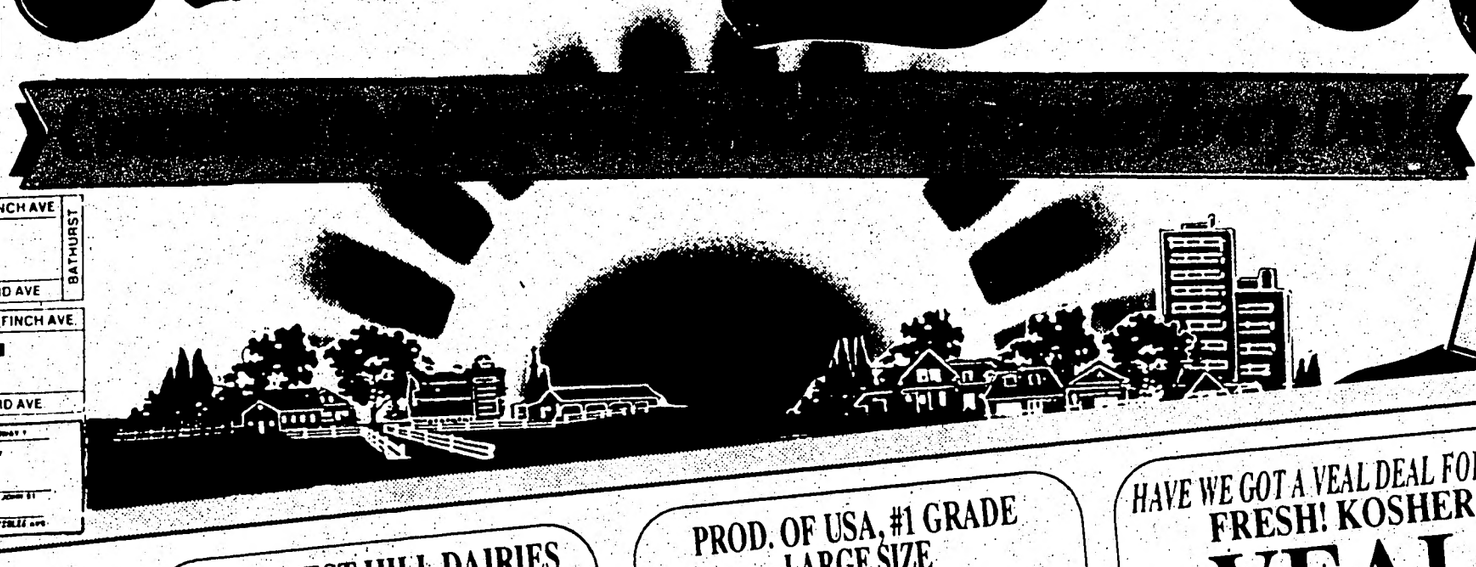

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